

# THE AMERICAN



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## WEEKLY NOTES.

IT is conceded very generally that Mr. HAYES's Administration was one of the purest known in American history. Not all the credit of this belongs to the Executive. No two American Congresses were more free from every taint of jobbery and corruption, than the two which occupied the same four years. But we are now learning that one department of the Government was an exception to this laudable state of things. The contract system in the Post-Office Service seems to have been grossly mismanaged. Any contract system is easy of abuse, if the officials inside are in collusion with the contractors outside. It is easy for the proposals to be put into such a shape that dishonest bidders shall seem to have offered lower terms than the honest, and yet have the contract so managed in its actual administration, that their bid shall be profitable to them at the expense of the Government. In this instance, the particular set of contracts known as those for the Star Routes were managed with this kind of collusion. Honest men were underbid by an unscrupulous ring, but the option reserved by the Government as to reduction of time in transportation of mails, on consideration of *increased pay*, was so treated as to secure enormous profits to the Ring. Ninety-three routes were thus accelerated at an increase of \$2,075,095, upon an original compensation of \$727,119; and suspicion points to General BRADY, the Assistant Postmaster-General, as the official who assisted in this roguery. Mr. BRADY has sent in his resignation at the request of the President and the Postmaster-General, and some lesser officials have been or will be dismissed for collusion in a wholesale system of plundering.

This exposure shows, among other things, the necessity of having men of experience in the control of such establishments as the Post-Office. Mr. KEY is a gentleman of unquestioned probity, but this villainy went on for years under his eyes, without exciting his suspicions. It was the charges brought by the newspapers which led to the investigation; but it was under Mr. JAMES that the investigation was brought speedily to an issue. On one point, we think Mr. JAMES has not done his duty to the country. We mean in accepting Mr. BRADY's resignation. There were surely other and more emphatic ways at his disposal for ridding the service of such a man.

A FALSE step in this matter is the more unfortunate, as it will be construed, in some quarters, as due to political weakness. Mr. BRADY is believed to have been counting on impunity, because of his political power. His newspaper, edited by Mr. GEO. C. GORHAM, is the Stalwart organ at the seat of Government. It has been strong enough to induce the Republican Senators to re-nominate Mr. GORHAM for the post of Secretary of the Senate, although it is only two years since this gentleman was engaged in the management of a Workingmen's-Democratic-Greenback party in California. And it was thought by some who regarded Mr. GARFIELD "as such another as themselves," that he would hush up the scandal for the sake of avoiding a collision with the proprietor and editor of *The National Republican*. We think it about time for the Senate of the United States to look down the ranks of its Stalwart friends for a more reputable clerk than Mr. GORHAM. We never supposed that the number of Stalwart office-seekers was so small that it was hard to find among them a presentable candidate

for any place in the party's gift. But this selection seems to show that we have been mistaken. And it adds to the popular disgust over this miserable squabble for the Senate offices, that the chief outcome of it is to be the elevation of two such men as Mr. GORHAM and Mr. RIDDLEBERGER.

ONE member of the Senate is reported to have been found in a rage over a letter he had just received from a constituent. He could not believe that there was among his constituency any person idiotic enough to suppose that he would stay in Washington and spend the public time in debate over a question so small as the filling of a number of petty offices. We believe that the Senators are finding by just such letters that there are a good many such idiots among their constituents, and that the number of those who are giving expression to such idiocy is increasing every day. For ourselves, we share in the ignorance of that idiotic letter-writer. We have read what the Senators have to say for themselves, and what those newspapers which approve their course have to say for them; and we, like this correspondent, can find nothing in the whole matter but a contemptible and ill-natured struggle over the small offices in the gift of the Senate. All the attempts to make of it something more important, seem to us attempts to darken counsel by words without knowledge. The chorus of the speeches might be—"In the name of the Prophet, figs!" We see nothing to be effected for the overthrow of the Southern Bourbons by making the Virginia repudiator the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. And we see nothing to be secured for "the great Constitutional principle that majorities must rule," by voting a Democrat out of the clerkship and Mr. GEORGE C. GORHAM into that office. One or other of those who take these two views of this struggle must be open to the charge of idiocy. We do not think it is the people who are advising the Senate to put an end to the struggle and come home. And the decision to hold another Republican caucus, and secure a decision in favor of going into executive session, seems to show that the Senators are becoming awake to the demands of the people in this matter.

SENATOR FRYE, who is recognized as Mr. BLAINE's friend as well as his successor in the Senate, made one of the ablest and most unprofitable speeches of this interminable debate. He poured upon the Southern Senators the facts and figures gathered from a study of the reports made to the Government of offences against the election laws. And he managed to rub in the salt of his speech until his Southern colleagues felt the smart. Were the country on the eve of a great election, there might be some use, from a Stalwart point of view, in this kind of denunciation. But in the present situation of things, it is in every sense worse than useless. Its only effect can be to widen and deepen the breach between South and North, which we are all anxious to have healed. Some Southern Senators saw fit to hold Mr. GARFIELD responsible for this piece of gratuitous irritation. Even if Mr. FRYE speaks Mr. BLAINE's sentiments, it by no means follows that he speaks for Mr. GARFIELD, or represents the spirit in which the President regards Southern questions. The present Cabinet, as every one knows, is a composite one. It contains men who differ widely from the President in such matters. Mr. GARFIELD, before his election, always discussed

Southern questions in a manner very different from that adopted by Mr. BLAINE; and his inaugural address shows that he has made no change in his manner. And, as some Southerners have remarked, the character of his nominations for Southern offices has been such as to show that he is desirous of giving the South no just cause of complaint.

MR. HAMPTON enlivened the debate by the one candid and even handsome speech of the whole session. When challenged to contradict the admissions made by a Charleston newspaper as to the frauds effected in his State by the tissue ballot, he refused to do so, admitted that the newspaper told the truth, but denied his personal responsibility for these crimes against the suffrage. Mr. HAMPTON has done well not to repeat the stupid denials which have been made of facts known to every one who cares to know them. But he gives us no pledge that they will not be repeated, nor does he tell us how he reconciles his knowledge of such frauds with his continued tenure of a seat in the Senate. A Southerner who denies everything and admits nothing, is not open to awkward questions. But a Southerner who makes such an admission as Mr. HAMPTON has made, concedes that he was made a Senator by a body illegally chosen, and that, so far as he knows at least, he is not morally entitled to sit in the Senate. We do not see how Mr. HAMPTON can evade this conclusion, unless he holds that there are moral axioms that justify treatment of black men which would be unjust to white men, or of Republicans which would be unjust to Democrats. We do not say this with any purpose of annoyance, but because we would like to know how Mr. HAMPTON meets this difficulty. We hope that Southerners will be brought to repentance and amendment by being forced to face just these questions. We have faith in their moral capacity to feel the gross inconsistencies in which they have involved themselves, and to work themselves clear of these for the future. And this is the only good we see to be possible as the result of such debates as this in the Senate.

ONE branch of the New York Legislature has passed a bill to put a stop to the practice of unfair discrimination in railroad freights, and one branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature has rejected a bill for the same purpose. Both these facts are steps to the same popular end,—the legal compulsion of privileged corporations to deal fairly with the public. Massachusetts has had the proper legislation in this matter for years past, and has enjoyed great benefit from it. In that Commonwealth no one would dare to propose a reversion to the chaotic and lawless condition of things which prevails in most of our Commonwealths. Nobody is hurt by this proper exercise of the State's sovereignty, and there has been no visible progress toward a communistic revolution since it was adopted. In Pennsylvania, the Constitution commands the Legislature to give the people the protection of similar legislation; but every year since its adoption the Legislature has obeyed the railroads instead of the Constitution, in leaving the people at the mercy of these great corporations. In one respect, this is not to be regretted. It may be necessary at no distant date to organize in Pennsylvania a popular movement at the expense of both of the existing parties, and this matter of the legal restraint of great corporations will furnish, in that case, an excellent issue for the new party, if there is to be one. It is true that there is no immediate prospect of a third party movement, and that the Independent Republicans are quite content, for the present, to work in the party ranks for higher ends than the political workers are aiming at. But a few more such transactions of the Legislature as this may leave them no alternative.

THE business of making hoop-iron ties to fasten cotton bales, is, we believe, a new one. It was not in vogue when our tariff on

manufactures of iron was drafted. In England it is carried on chiefly by the labor of girls, who work at wages far lower than men would ask. In America, girls cannot be got to undertake this kind of work, and the manufacturers of these ties pay men full wages for making this and other forms of hoop-iron. At first, the ties were classed as hoop-iron, and as such paid a duty which gave the well-paid work of American men a chance to compete with the underpaid work of English girls. But the English have made a careful study of the arts of evading our Tariff, and, under the decisions of Judge FRENCH, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, they have enjoyed every facility for this purpose. They punched a round hole in the end of each tie, and then claimed the right to import them as "unclassified manufactures of iron" at half the former rate of duty. This claim Mr. FRENCH at once conceded, as he has conceded nearly every similar claim during his administration of his office. The manufacturers now ask from Mr. WINDOM a reconsideration of this ruling, and the restoration of the duty to the former figure.

One of these manufacturers, in their interview with Mr. WINDOM, took the occasion to remind him that the country had pronounced with some emphasis, at the last Presidential election, in favor of the protection of American industry. Thereupon, the *Times* of New York,—which kept a remarkable silence in its editorial columns upon this subject after the opening weeks of the Presidential campaign, but allowed its trusted correspondents to tell its public that the Republicans owed their success to their advocacy of a Protective Tariff,—pounces upon this gentleman to read him a lecture on the Tariff Question. As the *Times* sees the matter, it is simply a question between the oppression of the cotton industry at the South and the prosperity of a few selfish manufacturers at the North. Does the *Times* believe that the South will grow a bale less cotton for having to use ties made by American men whose girls are at school, instead of those made by English girls who ought to be there? Or will it tell us the amount of the increased cost of the cotton per bale, if the old ruling of the Treasury were restored? Or will it tell us whether it believes in the right of foreigners to evade at every turn and at every point the revenue laws of the country? Or will it give us some assurance that iron ties will not cost us more through our making ourselves dependent on foreign manufacturers of them, as it now admits has been the effect of taking the duty off of quinine? Or, lastly, will it tell what it has done to secure such a revision of the Tariff as will remove this and other ambiguities?

THE Democrats of Philadelphia are beginning to talk of putting forward Controller Pattison for the Governorship of Pennsylvania. We hope they will do nothing of the sort, for the simple reason that Philadelphia cannot afford to spare him for that office. Nor do we think that Mr. Pattison would be a strong candidate. The 17,000 Independent Republicans, whose votes carried him into the Controldership last November, would vote as one man to keep him where he is, because he can do most good there. And in other parts of the State, Mr. Pattison's local reputation as a friend of Reform would be of no assistance. A merely Philadelphia reputation counts for little in Pennsylvania politics. The divorce between State and city has been of too long standing for that.

Yet we think this talk about Mr. PATTISON is significant enough to set Republicans to thinking. The Democrats see which way the drift of public opinion is going, and they are looking around for a man who is thoroughly identified with the Reform tendency. They are right; for if they should manage to secure such a candidate as Mr. PATTISON, and the Republicans should put forward one less acceptable to the Independents, the Democrats will carry the State. Outside of Pittsburg and Philadelphia, the State is heavily Democratic; and both Philadelphia and Pittsburg have shown that they



mean to accept no dictation from any political rings. Fortunately for the Republicans, they have not far to go to find the right man. In Representative WOLFE they have a man whose services to the Commonwealth exceed those of every other living man, and who would poll every Republican vote in the State, besides many that are Democratic. Mr. WOLFE is a man of good ability, of spotless integrity, and of iron perseverance in the work of bringing to justice the corruptionists who have disgraced the Commonwealth. There are Republicans who do not like him, for reasons bad or good; but we presume that there are no Stalwarts who will not prefer to see him, rather than a Democrat, occupy the Gubernatorial chair.

Mr. KING is setting himself bravely to the work of reforming municipal government in Philadelphia. He has begun in good earnest the enforcement of the law which forbids the sale of liquor on Sundays, at which his predecessor made several feints with little or no result. He has also announced that he will enforce the law against street-beggars and vagrants of all kinds. As the people of Philadelphia have made ample provision, through their public institutions and their charitable organizations, for the relief of every kind of want, the Mayor thinks there is no good reason for allowing this disgraceful and often dishonest practice. Most of those who are sent to the streets for this purpose—the blind, the deformed, the crippled, children, and so forth,—are thus exposed to the inclemency of weather of all kinds, by relatives who live off their collections. To contribute to their support by alms, is to help to maintain a system of inhumanity, as well as of imposture. Heretofore, it has been of little use to secure the arrest of such persons, as they were soon set adrift again by the managers of the House of Correction or the Guardians of the Poor; and the police declined to re-arrest them, as it was of no use. But Mr. KING intends to order their re-arrest as often as they return to their illegal employment, and thus to force upon the public attention the nature and the extent of this evil. That most of these people are shameless impostors, is beyond all question. One company of Italians came recently to our city, and at once set up in the business as professional blind men. Had they presented themselves as such at their landing, they would have been returned to Italy as paupers. But so cleverly had they learned their trade, that their neighbors only detected the imposture through their indiscretion in playing cards after their return from business. Another form of this nuisance is that of begging under the pretence of selling lead-pencils or some other trifle. A benevolent gentleman who was approached last week by a girl who was plying this trade, asked her how she dared to sell on the street without a license. She at once produced a license, which had cost her eight dollars and sixty cents paid into the city treasury! The business must be profitable.

As one-third of the Board of Guardians of the Poor of Philadelphia have to be elected next month, there is a very general movement in favor of the selection of a better class of men than have constituted the Board for some years past. Formerly, the Guardians were a body of whom the city might have been proud. Many of her best citizens gave their services without grudging; many are still ready to do so. But for some time back the selection has been made with a view to the political use of the almshouse. By appointing a large number of the inmates to small offices, at a salary of twenty-five cents a month or thereabout, many of them are kept from being technically paupers, and are marched to the polls, along with the numerous employes on genuine salaries, to vote for Mr. ROWAN and his friends. Of the present Board, there is not one, except Mr. McALEER, who enjoys public confidence. Many are engaged in business pursuits which unfit them for the discharge of their duties as Guardians. One is a traveller for a large dry goods house; another is a railroad engineer. And the

place is mismanaged grossly as regards its true purposes. A great host of children are kept in surroundings which teach them to become paupers. They are actually allowed to beg from visitors, the Grand Jury says. The foundlings sent to the care of the institution might just as well be thrown into the Schuylkill as carried across it to Blockley. They die, one and all, after a brief stay. In these circumstances, the time seems to have come for a change, and all the important charitable societies of the city have united in a petition to the City Councils, asking the election to this office of men of leisure, of high character, of known benevolence and experience in charitable work. No city in the world has a larger supply of such men than Philadelphia, but for years past her Councils seem to have avoided them systematically in selecting Guardians of the Poor.

THE debate on Mr. GLADSTONE's Irish Land Law opened inauspiciously. Some cleverly directed questions from the Tory side brought out the fact that the members of the Ministry had not mastered in detail the probable and possible workings of their own measure. When pushed for answers on important points, they were forced to ask for delay, that they might confer with each other and with their legal advisers. This was a terribly bad beginning, especially as several legal gentlemen sit on the Ministerial benches, and are supposed to be ready to answer all such questions off-hand. It shows that the Tories are going to offer an astute as well as a vigorous opposition to the measure. For this purpose they have gone to school to the Land Leaguers. They insist that the bill is too complicated for its purpose, just as Mr. PARNELL does. If it were a document merely for lawyers to understand and courts to interpret, this charge of complexity would not amount to much. But the Irish tenant of a five-acre farm cannot have a lawyer always at his elbow. That is a luxury reserved for landlords and large farmers. In nine cases out of ten, he will have to make out for himself the meaning of the bill, as it defines his own rights. A report made some years ago to the British Social Science Association, said that one reason for the failure of the BRIGHT Clauses in the Land Law of 1870 was that the people did not fathom their meaning or perceive their practical operation. But those clauses were simplicity itself as compared with the new bill, which fairly revels in obscure distinctions and wire-drawn discriminations. Parts of it would "puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer" to say exactly what they mean, as indeed they have already puzzled English lawyers to interpret them. The whole is the effort of a singularly subtle intellect to reconcile a measure of revolutionary sweep with the strongest feeling for the rights it invades. If it could be amended, as was DISRAELI's Reform Bill, by the elimination of all its ingenuities and clevernesses, it would be brought within the range of popular comprehension.

MR. PARNELL has made a clever stroke in his criticism of the Bill. He objects not only to its evident purpose to eliminate the smaller tenancies, but also to its complete failure to do anything for the farm laborers. This latter might seem an unfair criticism of a bill whose purpose is to adjust the relation of landlord and tenant. Its fairness lies in the fact that it is a retort upon his Liberal critics. This is the line upon which both Whigs, in the *Edinburgh Review*, and more radical Liberals, in *The Spectator*, have assailed the Land League. In Ireland, the mere laboring class is smaller, relatively, than in any other of the British islands. There are nearly as many farmers in Ireland as there are laborers. In some parts of the country there are no farm-laborers, all the work of cultivation being done by the farmers. It has been a movement of Whig policy to divide these two classes against each other. They charged the Land League with ignoring entirely the laboring class, while they asked everything for the farmers. They repeatedly foretold what they ardently hoped for, viz., a revolt of the laborers against the

farmers' League. The League has prevented any such dissension by pursuing a generous policy in the support of laborers who had refused to work for "Boycotted" employers. Now it turns the tables on the Liberals by demanding of them what they mean to do for this class, in which they have professed an unsolicited interest. Hence, the promptness of the official reply that the Ministry are prepared to do anything in season, but had not included them in the operations of the present bill.

NOTTINGHAM having re-elected Mr. BRADLAUGH to Parliament, the old dispute over his right to take the oath which qualifies him to sit, has been renewed. Mr. GLADSTONE, it seems, is not able to carry with him his own party in this matter, and a majority of the House has refused to allow Mr. BRADLAUGH to take the oath, even though he declares it would bind his conscience. Both parties to the controversy seem to us wretchedly in the wrong,—Mr. BRADLAUGH in offering to take the oath, and the House in refusing to let him take it. While we have not the slightest sympathy with Mr. BRADLAUGH's atheism, we hold that he had no right to evade the issue raised by his atheism, and to offer to take an oath which cannot but be a mockery in his mouth. For the sake of every other atheist in England,—and *The Spectator* has discovered that even Ireland has an atheistic and Nihilistic faction!—Mr. BRADLAUGH should have stood by his colors, as did those Jews who, when elected to Parliament, refused to swear "on the faith of a Christian." No man has any right to make such a compromise with his conscience as this, and such proceeding must be pronounced a compromise with conscience. On the other hand, Mr. BRADLAUGH, by this act of dishonor, has relieved the House of all responsibility in the matter. He has saved it for the present from the awkward question of the rights of atheists to sit in Parliament, by offering to take an oath which involves a renunciation of atheism, whether honestly made or not. And on that ground, the House should have dropped the matter until some more courageous and consistent disbeliever, or one less anxious for a seat at any cost, should present himself.

THE Nihilists offer the Czar peace on condition of his revolutionizing Russia by the immediate introduction of representative government and of all those popular liberties which are found in Western Europe. No such programme of reform is possible for the Czar. The materials for the political reconstruction they ask do not exist, and their proclamation shows that they, like most such theorists, have no appreciation of the difficulties of practical politics. It is Russia's great misfortune that there are two Russias,—the European and the Muscovite. The former consists of an educated class, full of vague aspirations, and very generally divested, through their shallow intellectualism, of the moral and religious convictions shared by the rest of the nation. The latter consists of the vast multitudes of the peasantry, each with a horizon restricted to their native village, with no political aspirations and no true preparation for political life. To form a homogenous whole out of such diverse elements, must be the work of generations; and the new Czar is taking what is probably the best means to that end. He is about to organize provincial assemblies, with merely advisory powers, as a means of giving expression to the people's opinions and desires, so far as they have any. If such a plan be honestly worked, and not crushed by the superabundant officialism of the bureaucracy, it may serve a good purpose. It may help to awaken in the *moujiks* an intelligent interest, first in provincial and then in national questions. But at present the *mir* is somewhat like the Roman *municipium*; it cares for nothing beyond its own boundaries. When the Emperor HONORIUS tried to unite the cities of Gaul in a representative system, he failed utterly, for the simple reason that no city would elect delegates. A like narrow particularism prevents any immediate fusion of the villages into a national system of representation.

#### ASSESSMENT LIFE INSURANCE.

WITHIN a few years there has sprung up in these United States what may be fairly called an army of societies—in numbers at least—having for their object the payment of benefits to the families of deceased members. These societies first started among the religious bodies and the various secret orders; but they have now spread to the different trades and occupations, and in many cases organizations and secret orders have been formed, which had no other object in view than that of securing life insurance in the same mode as that practiced by the Masonic, Odd Fellow and other secret societies. These latter have stolen the livery of the secret societies, in some instances, to serve their managers in. Side by side with these societies, there have grown up a lot of corporations, organized under general laws in most of the States, but specially chartered in others, which are, ostensibly, life insurance companies, and which are distinguished from what we have all known as life insurance companies, by the term "co-operative." Where a life insurance contract promises to pay one thousand dollars, their contract promises to pay the amount of an assessment (less expenses of collection,) made on surviving members, not to exceed one thousand dollars. The payment of this death assessment is voluntary on the part of the survivors, and if they do not pay, the heirs do not receive. The expenses of these companies are provided for by an initiation fee, usually from five to eight dollars for each certificate, by annual dues of three dollars, and a fee for medical examination where medical examinations are made.

The number of these companies is something astonishing. A recent report of a committee of the Ohio Legislature gives the number organized within two years in that State alone, at ninety, one-half of which are already dead. New York and Pennsylvania have a small army of them, and the other States are not far behind. Their membership is, in the aggregate, very large, and is increasing rapidly. Some of the States have attempted to so far regulate their business as to compel annual reports of their receipts and disbursements; but these attempts have met with very indifferent success, and to-day, though they are all incorporated, their number and the extent of the business done by them cannot be estimated.

Without questioning the motives of the conductors of these companies—and certainly the motives of the conductors of the benefit societies of the secret orders cannot be questioned—it is well to point out a weakness in their calculations which must inevitably prove disastrous to their hopes of cheap insurance in a very few years. There is no business which attempts to measure and provide for hazards, more deceptive than that of life insurance. In fire insurance, at best, but two or three years will elapse before the normal conditions of loss will show themselves; but a life company, with careful selections of risks and sufficient momentum, can run for a long time before its actual losses will reach the tabular losses. At the close of the first year's business of the company, if it has taken one thousand lives, evenly distributed in point of time over the year, its experience on that thousand lives only covers five hundred years of insurance. If it takes another thousand the second year, it has then fifteen hundred years of insured life, and its exposure has increased from one-half to three-fourths. But if it takes two thousand new members the second year, it has only two thousand years of insured life exposed, and its ratio of years to numbers has only increased from one-half to two-thirds. Let us suppose this progress to continue another year, giving four thousand new members. There will then be two thousand years of insured life on the new members and five thousand on the old, making seven thousand years of insurance and seven thousand lives. But if only a thousand members are taken in the third year, there will be but four thousand members, and the years of insurance will be five thousand and five hundred. We are supposing that up to this time there have been no deaths. Even with arithmetical progression, the risk



is a constantly increasing one, and there must come a time when that cannot be maintained, and when the benefits of medical selection will be lost. Lives must deteriorate as surely as we must all grow old and die. Death is behind the co-operatives and will overtake them and destroy them, unless constantly increasing assessments are paid. They may break the mortality tables as Moses broke the tables of stone; but the law will remain, and they must meet it. The life companies have made in their accumulated reserves a sufficient preparation to meet it, and it remains to be seen whether assessments can be collected sufficient to enable the co-operatives to do so.

If we reason from the actual results in assessment fire insurance, the outlook is not hopeful. If we are to take the history of the assessment life insurance companies, we shall not fare better. The Protection, of Chicago, which failed in 1878, was one of the largest of them, had been in operation but little over ten years. Incorporated in 1867, it did not commence business until 1871, so that its operations really extended over only about seven years, and its managers did not dare make assessments enough to meet its losses. It died with unpaid death-claims of over half a million of dollars. The magnitude to which this business of assessment life insurance is growing, and the deceptive character of its early promise, make it incumbent upon those who are trusting the future of their families to its care, to look a little below the surface of things and ascertain whether it will do to trust to it. Let it not be condemned without a hearing, nor trusted without examination.

#### ELDER CANNON'S APOLOGY.

A DEFENCE of Mormonism, by GEORGE Q. CANNON, printed in the May number of the *North American Review*, is chiefly notable because of the notoriety and prominence of its author.

Mr. CANNON, whose paper is a defence of and an apology for Mormonism, is one of the Mormon hierarchy, and was for several terms a delegate to Congress from Utah. He has been re-elected; but the certificate of election was given by the Governor to his "Gentile" competitor, Mr. CAMPBELL, on the absurd ground that the Governor had a right to withhold a certificate from a man who, according to report, was an alien, and who was acknowledged to be a polygamist. These facts, and these alone, give a certain passing interest to Mr. CANNON's paper. The style of this contribution is of the very worst. If it had been a communication to one of the sloppy newspapers of Salt Lake City, it would have found congenial surroundings, and would not have had any circulation outside of the community of wranglers of which Mr. CANNON is a member. But in the *North American Review* it will command an attention which it does not deserve.

Aside from the controversial portion of his paper, Mr. CANNON's argument, if argument it may be called, is as follows: The Mormons are industrious, frugal, honest, loyal and law-abiding; they have been unjustly persecuted; and polygamy is according to Scripture and ancient usage. Mr. CANNON ingeniously sets up a man of straw in the person of an alleged "public man of superior intelligence," who is wonder-stricken when he is told that there are two sides to the Mormon question, and who asks what the Mormons can possibly say in their own defence. This besotted ignoramus, it is hardly necessary to say, is threshed most soundly and effectually by the reviewer before his paper is finished. If Mr. CANNON had been as ingenuous as he is ingenious, he would have said, at the outset, that he did not address himself to such densely ignorant persons as those who do not know that there is no such thing as a question with only one side. Their case is hopeless. It may be admitted that the Mormons are industrious, thrifty and frugal. Indeed, it should be said to their credit that they are worthy of high praise for their many virtues. They have shown, for

instance, a devotion to their form of religious faith and practice which shames the weakness of many Christian people who have cast stones at the Latter-Day Saints. They have endured not only persecution, but hardships excessive and distressful. They have founded in the wilderness a State which has flourished exceedingly upon the bravery and industry of its citizens. Wherever the Mormons have gone, in other and adjacent portions of the national domain, they have made their mark very speedily by their patient toil, causing the rugged face of nature to smile with the rewards of agricultural labor. It is true, also, that many of them really believe that the institution of polygamy is ordained of God, and that they are persecuted unjustly when this practice is sought to be broken up by the arm of the law.

It is quite likely that there are in Utah many people, called Gentiles, who are base and mean, and whose treatment of the Mormons, or Latter-Day Saints, is prompted by wicked motives. Let all this be admitted, and still Mr. CANNON's plea in behalf of his people is inconclusive and illogical. It is idle to descant upon the virtues and sufferings of the Mormons, as though it were something else than the polygamic practices which excited the enmity of the non-Mormon portion of the community. Take polygamy away from Mormonism, and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints would at once sink into obscurity and neglect. According to Mr. CANNON, the sect in whose defence he draws his blade has been solidified and strengthened by persecution. Mr. CANNON very well knows that, if it were not for plural marriage as a Mormon tenet of faith, his fellow-saints never would have been persecuted. Therefore, no argument, no plea in abatement, is of any avail, which does not recognize the fact that polygamy is the sole offence of the Mormon people. No parade of public and private virtues can excuse this unnatural practice. This offence cannot be condoned by other and praiseworthy actions.

It is plain, then, that, if Mr. CANNON, or any other Mormon apologist, can successfully defend the practice of polygamy, he can defend Mormonism, to the discomfiture of its enemies. In the paper before us, the Mormon elder has not met with any more complete success than has attended his predecessors. In this portion of his treatise, the writer makes use of much cheap learning, quoting, with solemnity, from THEODORETUS, St. AMBROSE, St. AUGUSTINE, St. CHRYSOSTOM, GROTIUS, and others. It looks very much as if all the paragraphs relating to this branch of the subject had been furnished to the writer by some learned person, and that Mr. CANNON has patched this incongruous material into his own sleazy web. The gist of all this display of learning is that the thing which is according to custom is not a crime. In the days of JACOB, plural marriages were customary; therefore, they were not criminal. From this we are to infer that Mormonism has sought to make polygamy a custom, and that this attempt takes it out of the criminal calendar. Certain persons in Massachusetts sought to revive the practice of human sacrifice, urging that GOD had ordered this, just as he ordered ABRAHAM to offer up his son on the altar. This dangerous custom was stopped by clapping the sacrificers into prison. Mr. CANNON's citation of ancient practices is as unfortunate as his attempt to draw a line betwixt bigamy and polygamy. The former, he says, is a crime known to the civil law, and its offensiveness is aggravated by the fact that the first wife has been abandoned and the second spouse is ignorant of a previous marriage. Both are wronged and deceived, and society is outraged. This is a very superficial view of the case. Blackstone says that the having of two or more husbands or wives at once, is not bigamy but polygamy. The former offence, according to canon law, was the marrying of two virgins successively. But Dr. DONNE stigmatizes LAMECH, who is one of Mr. CANNON's saintly heroes and patriarchs, as "the prime bigamist and corrupter of marriage." And WEBSTER, the lexicographer, defining polygamy,

quotes PERKINS as saying of an offender, that "he lived, to his death, in the sin of polygamy, without any particular repentance." It is in vain that Mormon apologists attempt to gloss over their peculiar practices by giving a less offensive name to polygamy. By common usage, which is the custom of the country, plural marriage is polygamy. Under the laws of the country, this is bigamy. No pretended revelation from God can excuse or defend a practice which is abhorrent to the conscience of the Christian world and at war with the law of every civilized community. And the laborious defence which has been put forth by this latest apostle of Mormonism, like all that have gone before, avoids the real issue. Polygamy is indefensible.

### PUBLIC OPINION.

#### THE "STAR ROUTE" DISCLOSURES.

THE disclosures relative to the "Star Route" service, and the retirement of General Brady from the Post-Office Department, have afforded a national topic that has been discussed during the last week more freely and fully than any other matter pertaining to Government business. Republican and Democratic newspapers alike call for the most searching investigation, and with few exceptions they commend the President for the steps already taken. The Boston *Advertiser* says: "It is to be hoped that the good work begun in clearing out the 'Star Route' gang of blunderers will be continued relentlessly until the department shall have been purged. There is no manner of doubt that the Government has been swindled in a wholesale way by post-office contractors and others." At the same time, the *Advertiser* admits that it is too soon to throw the whole, or even a part, of the blame upon any single man, adding: "When the facts are known, it will be time to individualize the condemnation." The Philadelphia *Press* is no less positive that the people have been wronged. "The frauds were projected upon the largest scale," says the *Press*; "the wrongs are self-evident, and the only explanations are incredible stupidity or immeasurable rascality." The Chicago *Tribune*, the Cincinnati *Commercial*, and the Cincinnati *Gazette* say that there undoubtedly has been fraud in the service, and the latter adds, epigrammatically: "With reference to the 'Star Route' business, President Garfield will see that 'no guilty man escapes.'"

While most of the newspapers in which the matter has been considered, agree with the Boston *Advertiser* that it is too early yet to fix the individual responsibility, some have openly thrown a large share of the blame upon General Brady. The Washington *Republican* is the only journal of prominence which defends General Brady in positive terms, and which argues that he is the victim of a persecution. The *Republican*, referring to "General Brady's enemies," asks: "Do they not know that General Brady acted under the law, and was twice sustained by Congress in doing the very things complained of?" That paper, which is regarded as General Brady's personal organ, claims that ex-President Hayes, ex-Postmaster-General Key, and others, thoroughly examined the charges of fraud. It also has made the surprising discovery that "Mr. Samuel J. Tilden instigated the persecution that he might cast reproach upon the Administration of President Hayes." A word in General Brady's behalf is offered, in a different spirit, by the Indianapolis *Journal*, which says: "When the Administration is ready, there will be an official statement of the causes leading to the change in the Post-office Department, and until that is done, it should be remembered that what is now being published is simply the evidence with which the country was made familiar during the last session of Congress, and which was then deemed insufficient to drive General Brady from office. The viciousness of the system of letting the 'Star Route' contracts cannot be questioned in the light of the testimony, but a system inherently wrong may exist without the administrator being necessarily a dishonest and corrupt man. But, whatever the absolute truth is, it will and must be brought out now." It occurs to the Philadelphia *Ledger*, also, that the public have no right to condemn General Brady until "the law officers of the Government shall take steps towards his indictment for malfeasance." "So long as such steps are not taken," thinks the *Ledger*, "the statements sent out from Washington must take their place among the great crop of sensational rumors." The New York *Herald* calls upon ex-Senator Dorsey to explain his connection with the service, and also names several Democratic members of Congress, asking them to tell what they know about "the melancholy and depressing story." In the opinion of the *Post-Dispatch*, a Democratic newspaper of St. Louis, "when the 'Star Route' swindles upon the Postal Department are stirred up, it will be found that a number of prominent Democrats have been handling the tarred stick."

If the abuse should prove to be as bad as it is painted, think several papers, the wonder is that "President Hayes, who was otherwise so sensitive to scandal in any department during his administration,

should have allowed the wrong to continue." The Cincinnati *Commercial* says that Mr. Hayes allowed his personal regard for his Postmaster-General to influence him too much. "Had it not been for the general cleanness of the public service under the last Government," says the Boston *Herald*, "the swindle would have made more noise in the newspapers. Had Carl Schurz been Postmaster-General, the swindle would have been uncovered. Mr. James is a good man to investigate and correct it and punish the swindlers. He has an opportunity to place his name by the side of Bristow and Schurz." After explaining minutely the workings of the service, the Providence (R. I.) *Star* says: "If Mr. James can straighten out this crooked spot in his department and bring it down to sound business principles, he will save millions of dollars to the people and cover his administration with glory."

"Let all honor be given to President Garfield and Postmaster-General James," exclaims the New York *Herald*, "for having stricken the ring down. The President has deserved well of his country. Let him continue to deserve it by striking blow after blow against public speculation." Alluding to President Garfield's firmness in resisting "the pressure from parties of prominence" who want the investigation stopped, the Buffalo *Express* concludes: "That is the sort of President the country should have; it is the sort of President it has. There will be no covering up. On the contrary, there will be no let-up until every rascal has been uncovered. We have no fear that the country will see any wavering in the President's action. He is clear as to his duty and unyielding as to its performance."

#### THE UNPRECEDENTED IMMIGRATION.

The unprecedented foreign immigration is commanding the attention of the press in all parts of the country. "The tide of immigration," says the Savannah (Ga.) *News*, "is setting in with a volume never before known. The season is hardly open, but arrivals are already numerous beyond all expectation. The Old World is emptying its crowded and discontented population upon our shores like a living flood, and we are glad there is 'life worth living' before them here." The New York *Star* speaks in a similar strain, exclaiming: "America is the haven of happiness for the oppressed nationalities of Europe; there is room enough on this broad continent for all comers, and they are welcome." It is noticeable that there is not one newspaper in the country which expresses regret at the in-coming flood of human beings, but there are many that show gratification because of the excellent condition of the new claimants for citizenship. Referring to the estimate of the New York Commissioners of Emigration, that "this year's arrivals of persons who will become permanent settlers of the United States will be between 400,000 and 500,000," the Wheeling *Register* reminds the public that "most of the immigrants do not come as a burden, but, being of the better classes, are ready at once to purchase and work small farms of their own." The Leavenworth (Kansas) *Times* says that the foreign settlers who have arrived lately in that State "are of a class having plenty of means," and that "they show a contented feeling." According to the St. Paul (Minn.) *Pioneer-Press*, "the people of the Northwest are now delighted to welcome many skilled workmen among the thousands who are locating this season on the Upper Mississippi." "Certainly, this country will not object to receiving its share of an industrious and honest population," says the Pittsburg *Commercial-Gazette*, "especially since, under the new law, which is about to go into effect, the paupers and convicts who threatened to become a serious burden, will have to stay at home." The Buffalo *Commercial* is pleased to learn from the New York *World*, which investigated the matter, that "nearly three-fourths of the arrivals are destined for the Western States, where they no doubt will become sturdy citizens and staunch supporters of the Republic." The St. Louis *Republican* notes with satisfaction "the influx into Missouri of hardy and honest-looking Europeans of the working class," and the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* mingles its words of satisfaction with the reflection that "the new citizens will change the politics of some of the counties in which Democracy is rock-rooted." The Detroit *Free Press* pauses in its welcome to lament that "the immigrants arrive in foreign ships, because the people of this country have no marine;" and the Atlanta *Constitution* regrets that "so few of the families which bring fresh blood decide to settle in the South, where the facilities are great."

A few of the newspapers have been asking the question whether the "bodies of immigrants that keep together in colonies will not in time give serious trouble by refusing to assimilate to American customs and to obey American laws?" The suggestion is regarded by the Chicago *Tribune* as absurd, that paper declaring that "Germans, Russians, Norwegians and Swiss no sooner obtain homes than they begin to exhibit an ardent desire to become full-fledged Americans in every respect." The New York *Sun* refers to the immigrants as "men and women who seek the Republic to better their fortunes" and regards them as "desirable citizens." "Americans find plenty of things to grumble about," concludes the *Sun*, "and indeed there are plenty of things with us that need amendment; but immigrants from across the seas continue to flock to America, at the rate of half a million a year, as to a new land of promise."



## PRACTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY.

THERE is probably nothing in the mind of the average man farther removed from every notion of what is practical, than what is called the science of bibliography, so little comprehended is it: and yet, in the future of books and of libraries, it is to be the real salvation of students. If this is so, any one can see that it may have a practical value; but it is only a value made more apparent, but not more real than now. The world of our books to-day is many millions; and yet our largest libraries contain, so far as estimates have been made of them in any way trustworthy, only between one and two millions at the outside. The question naturally arises with the ordinary thinker, is not this number sufficient? Under a rule of the survival of the fittest, can we well have larger ones, or is it desirable to do so? There are two answers to be made to this:

First—It is the experience of those librarians who see most of investigators, that no library now exists in which one student in ten can find all his questions answered in any line of research. There is, then, room for more books, it would seem.

Second—Accumulated books become the material to make more books, and they are the chronicles of the movement of the mind through the ages, and as long as this is an interesting historical study—and this is a phase of historical research now becoming of vast importance,—books will be accumulated to answer this end. Possession only begets acquisition. Nor is it safe to trust any one to discriminate what shall be discarded, and what saved, in a large library. The most experienced librarians agree that every thing worthy to be considered a contribution to the study of mental history, however manifested, must be preserved; in large libraries, nothing in books or tracts, temporarily trivial, but becomes in time permanently useful. This proposition need not be illustrated here; those having a right to an opinion are agreed upon it.

These, then, being the facts, what is to prevent our libraries from growing to enormous size? Nothing. They will, of course, be subject to the vicissitudes of time. Fire, war, thieves, false custodians, communists, and much else, will devastate them, destroying, here and there, much. But the survival will be enormous, nevertheless. And this is being recognized in two ways. First, those who are providing structures for the housing of future great collections, are looking forward to the time when ten millions of volumes will be a limit that yet may be extended; and their buildings are planned for further extensions. It is such a limit as this which is now bounding the perceptions of those who are having to do with the future provision for the Library of Congress. Nor is this enormous expectation extravagant. Twenty-three years ago, the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in an address delivered at the dedication of the Boston Public Library, spoke of the building, with its estimated capacity of two hundred and forty thousand volumes, as sufficient for a century to come. In less than a quarter of that time, changes have been made in the same building to fit it for holding half a million of volumes; and this capacity not now being deemed enough for the near future, steps have already been taken to erect a new building, of which the capacity, if the trustees are wise, will be practically illimitable. And how can this be secured? The pressure for space has already prompted librarians and architects to the study of library construction, with the view to secure the utmost condensation of storage. It is in the line of this study that the present public library in Boston now holds twice as many volumes as it was planned for. If the readjusters of its arrangements had not been hampered by its original plan, that building could have been made to hold between one and two millions of volumes, instead of half a million. So, this increase of capacity is not by any means going to compel a proportionate distension of exterior walls. Close packing, increased altitude (or rather more stories, of less height of ceiling,) and mechanical devices for rapid administration, together with improved systems of classification, are all going to reduce the difficulties of administration so much that there is no reason why a library of ten millions of volumes, properly arranged in a proper building, shall not be more easily handled, and the public be more quickly served, than in any large library in the country at the present moment, when the largest of them falls far short of half a million of volumes. But will this be? In the end, certainly; but perhaps not generally, until experience has been bought, not appropriated. One may feel quite certain of this, though tradition is still found trammelling skill in such libraries as those recent structures, the Peabody Institute of Baltimore, the Ridgway Branch in Philadelphia, and the Public Library in Cincinnati.

The second way in which this inevitable large growth of libraries is recognized, is in the practical aspect which is being given just now to bibliography, or the art of making collections of books serviceable by affording clues to thread their mazes. This may not be the old definition of bibliography, but it is one which progress is enforcing. We, in our larger libraries in this country, know what it is to have a subject-catalogue. In Europe, the thing is unknown in the great libraries; only the smaller collections, or those which have grown up under the free library acts in England, have such a help. And why not? Because,

in the first place, tradition is against it, and tradition is still powerful; and, in the second place, the task of making a subject catalogue, when it has not been made with the growth of the library, is appalling. At the present moment, the authors' catalogue of the British Museum fills over 3,000 large folio volumes. If subject entries should be made as we make them, it would take twice as many volumes to hold them. Just think of the catalogue, authors and subjects, of a single library taking up nearly ten thousand large folio volumes. It is, of course, easier to omit the fullness of cross-references common with us, and the bulk may be graduated accordingly. Still, the corporeal manifestation would be portentous. And yet it is not so portentous but the authorities of the British Museum are at the present moment contemplating the necessity for it. And what that library does,—on the whole, the best administered library in Europe,—others will have to do.

There are in this country ten or fifteen libraries fairly called large; and a considerable part of the work done in these libraries is work common to them all. They are each doing it independently, and each doing it at large cost. Is there any such thing as co-operative bibliography, which can, by sharing the cost and sharing the labor, save one-half or more of this labor and this cost? There certainly is; and it is a *practical* bibliography which will accomplish this economic scheme, is it not? But, it may be contended, it is not possible to bring different institutions into harmony for the work. Not possible, we deny; difficult, we allow. There are all sorts of feelings, of traditional usage, of independent spirit, cherished aloofness, and much else, to stand in the way. Nothing will overcome them but necessity, and that will come with just this enormous growth of libraries which is ahead. The enormous cost of maintaining them independently, when they get to be of these inordinate proportions, will force them into the banding process, to save their strong boxes from bankruptcy. One may ask what symptom there is that this is possible.

One of the great objects in founding the American Library Association, was to organize effort in this direction; and their first effort is now in progress. Everybody who knows anything about the periodical literature of the past fifty years, knows that it is of vast help in every study. It is not worth while now to consider whether literature has gained by this new channel for it. The fact remains that magazines are indispensable to study now, if we would know what has been done; and no wise student goes ahead on a subject without first ascertaining where his predecessor left off. This being the case, it was becoming, more or less, the custom in libraries to index important articles in periodicals, each library bearing the expense of its own work, and numerous libraries doing the same work. Thirty years ago, when this literature was comparatively confined, one man conferred an inestimable boon on scholars by doing this work for them; and Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature" is of the utmost value to-day. But it is nearly thirty years old. How shall it be put abreast of the times? The association already named appointed a committee to put this index abreast of the times, Mr Poole to have the chief management in organizing the work. A code of rules for indexing was drawn up; two or three hundred periodicals were selected; and twenty or thirty libraries in this country, and half as many in Great Britain, agreed to work together. Each library did the work on the periodicals assigned to it. The labor has been all performed, and the manuscript sheets are now in the hands of an acting editor for revision, assorting, alphabetizing and other unifying work, and at the end of this year the "copy" will be all ready for the printer. There seems now no obstacle in the way of publication. The publishing house, a well-known firm in Boston, is secured; and libraries, in two years' time, may cease work in indexing periodicals earlier than 1880.

If the result of this experiment is satisfactory, the fact will be established that co-operative bibliography, in the sense we use the word, is practicable; and we may look for other work to follow, which may make us contemplate the growth of libraries with less alarm.

## SOCIETY AND ITS DETRACTORS.

IT is a singular fact that there exists a large class of most worthy and estimable people who never enter into fashionable life and have no concern whatever with society, and who yet cherish an undying and unreasonable enmity against it and all its ways. The odd feature about this enmity is its entire causelessness. The persons who most bitterly anathematize the gay world and its denizens, are not, as one might suppose, disappointed seekers after the magic key that opens the glittering portals, but usually are quiet, domestic individuals, who have something else to do besides amusing themselves, and other duties to perform than those dictated by the laws of social intercourse. They indeed have no taste whatever for gayety of the fashionable order; and, under the circumstances, it is impossible to conjecture why their dislike is so virulent and their sneers so caustic.

Such persons will say of a lively, socially-disposed individual, "Oh, she goes into society," or, "He belongs to the fashionable set," with

much the same tone and air as those wherewith they might chronicle the taking of a ticket on the high road to perdition, or a voluntary enlistment in the armies of Satan. They seem to be aggravated into wrath by the mere existence of beings and proceedings so foreign to their nature. This queer state of feeling is not confined in its expression to the utterances of private life, but finds demonstration in the pages of more than one well-known author. Especially is this true of the late George Eliot, who, with all her large-minded tolerance for, and sympathy with, the weaknesses and peculiarities of the human race, could find neither tenderness nor toleration wherewith to depict for us a fashionable young lady. To such writers, an inclination for evil seems to be more pardonable than a taste for society, or, what is perhaps the truth, they can better comprehend the former weakness than the latter.

To turn from society's detractors to society itself, it might, we think, best be compared to a picnic where each guest is called upon to contribute something to the general stock for the entertainment of the whole. The *débutante* brings her freshness and her beauty; the woman of the world her charm of manner and her *savoir faire*; the dancing young man his leadership of the "German;" the amateur songstress her vocal gifts and artistic graces; the wit entertains, lending, in his *bon mots* and brilliant conversation, a charm to dinner parties; while the wealthy and hospitable contribute *fêtes* and balls, gay receptions and brilliant weddings, the glory of superb toilets, the dazzle of diamonds and the loveliness of lace. And if all members of society were only content to regard their contributions in the light of a proper return for that share of the offerings of others which they have themselves enjoyed, there would be less disposition to cavil at the requirements of social intercourse, and more inclination to impart freely of whatever they have to bestow.

The ceaseless outcry against that much-maligned organization called society is thoroughly unjust. The art of evil-speaking has become exhausted upon this one theme. Vicious, heartless, demoralizing, stupid, silly, ruinous,—are but a few of the adjectives which are hurled at those who compose society in any large city. The fact is that society is neither a literary club, an art union, nor a benevolent association, and those who insist on its possessing the advantages and merits of such institutions, are about as wise as those who would seek to gather apples from rose-trees. Nor yet is it, as its detractors assert, a society for the propagation of vice and immorality. It is simply an association formed for the purposes of social amusement and intercourse—nothing more and nothing less; and if people would only accept it for what it really is, there would be less disposition to cavil at the defects which, in common with all organizations of a similar nature, it undoubtedly possesses. Nor would its critics persist in seeking within its limits for qualities it never pretended to and blessings which it never asserted it had the power to bestow. If we want substantial viands, shall we go to a conservatory to look for them? If a lady insists on promenading on the first of January in a ball-dress, can she reasonably complain if her costume lacks durability or fails to impart warmth? and is it the fault of the garment itself? Is not rather the wearer to blame, who insists on perverting the unsubstantial fabric to uses for which it was never intended? Yet such and so wise are the criticisms of the cavillers at society. They insist that the gay sprite—social intercourse,—shall assume the garb and the gestures of an angel. And they are wildly wrathful when the disguise they themselves imposed upon their light-winged visitor is cast aside.

There are those, too, who, not content with decrying society in general, extend their criticisms into minuter details, and sketch lively pen-portraits of the personages who haunt the precincts of the fashionable world. Their strictures are often apparently well-founded, and their portrait-gallery not infrequently contains striking likenesses whose great defects are, however, exaggeration and want of variety. They are usually drawn from one group of persons, and are as thoroughly conventional as are the stage representations of Yankee and Irish characters. We have all been frequently introduced (on paper,) to the heartless young matron whose sickly infant is poisoned by a fiendish nurse, while the unnatural mother is amusing herself with her sister butterflies. And we have all been edified by the mournful history of the noble-minded young man, with an elevated character and the best of principles, who ultimately fills a drunkard's grave, by reason of the claret, punch and champagne provided at the festivities of the upper ten. Of course, there are no unfeeling, careless mothers, save those who go into society; and equally, of course, there are no roads to dissipation provided for young men, save those that lead through its glittering scenes.

It is, perhaps, true that the most lovable and charming of society's leaders can find among their dear five hundred friends scarcely more than five or six to whom they are really dear, whenever circumstances arise which bring the devotion of their acquaintances to any real or painful test. Yet, were the remaining four hundred and ninety-five loved with any more sincerity than that which they are apt to display in loving? If any one of us were to depart this life to-morrow, there would not be one tear the more, or one "German" the less, among the ranks of our fashionable acquaintances. Supposing that we were to be informed of the sudden demise of Mrs. X—, a lady at whose door we have been in the habit of leaving an annual card, and from whom, in return, a

parallelogram of pasteboard has been received; who has always invited us to her balls when she gave what is termed a general invitation;—do you think that our hearts would be broken, and our spirits crushed by such an event? Why should they be? Our hearts are not hotels, where hundreds of guests may permanently abide; they are, at best, but cosy dwellings, with room and to spare, for some six or eight cherished inhabitants. And if each member of fashionable society were to go through the world weeping and wailing over the death of every person on his or her visiting-list, they would live in a perpetual shower of tears. Society would keep an Easterless Lent, and crape veils and cambric handkerchiefs would be at a premium. This charge of heartlessness is brought against no other organization whatever, and yet there are none that do not display it in the self-same degree. When a gentleman belonging to any religious denomination dies, the congregation of which he was a member do not expend any extraordinary amount of time in bewailing their deceased brother. Bank directors die; but their fellow-directors seem to survive the blow and continue to take their customary monthly bank dinner with undiminished relish. Society, like all other corporations, has neither a body to be kicked, a soul to be condemned, nor even a heart wherewith to love.

Let us not ask from society what we never gave her, and what she has not the power to bestow. She is the playmate of our happy hours,—not the consoler of our sad ones. It is her duty to amuse and charm, not to love us. When the storms of adversity or sorrow beat upon us, let us not wrap our shivering forms in society's draperies of point lace, or shelter our heads beneath her wreaths of flowers. Therein lies the madness of those who live for society alone. They who do so forget that life is both earnest and real, and that, some day, to every votary of fashion there will come a time when the sunshine will grow dim and pleasure itself will cease to be pleasant. And, still more, if we have no desire to enter society, let us not stand without the wall to sneer at the revellers because their ways are not our ways, or because their dance-music does not possess the solemn grandeur of Beethoven, nor their conversation combine the wit of Sheridan, or the originality of Goethe, with the eloquence of Burke and the learning of Macaulay.

#### RIGHTS OF PEDESTRIANS.

A WISE motto for every pedestrian to keep in mind is, "Look where you are going." While personal safety depends very largely upon the faithful observance of that principle, legal remedies are measured very closely by that rule. A case recently decided in one of the New York courts recognizes this duty as imperative on the part of the foot passenger. The plaintiff in the suit, while crossing a street, was run over by the defendant's cart and seriously injured, for which he asked for damages. The Court decided that no action would lie, because the evidence showed that the plaintiff had failed to look "both ways" before attempting to cross the street, and was busily engaged in looking in an opposite direction from that in which the cart was approaching, when the accident occurred. The additional ground upon which the decision was based, was the failure to show any negligence on the part of the defendant. But the general rule is that, where there is contributory negligence on the part of the person injured, he loses his remedy at law, and must suffer for his own carelessness. Yet even where there is carelessness or contributory negligence, the law does not permit another to ruthlessly and maliciously drive over the careless person and maim or kill him. In a case of wilful injury, damages will be allowed to the person injured, even though he was himself negligent. Where the injury is the result of accident, traceable solely to the carelessness of one or the other of the parties, the law requires that the one seeking damage shall himself have used due care and caution. A case recently before the courts turned upon this question of contributory negligence, and involved the same principles of law that controlled in the case mentioned above. An old woman living in a tenement house fell down stairs and suffered injuries which caused her death. Her son sued the trustee who controlled the property for \$5,000 damages, charging that he was responsible for her death, he having been notified that the stairs were in a dangerous condition, and negligently failed to repair them. The plaintiff was nonsuited, however, the Court holding that the evidence showed that the deceased had been guilty of contributory negligence in not having used proper precautions against an accident, which her previous knowledge of the condition of the stairs should have caused her to foresee. Another case involving the question of contributory negligence, and also of the liability of the owner of the property where the accident occurred, has been before the courts and decided adversely to the person injured. In this case the defendant owning a vacant lot made a contract with a builder to erect upon it a house for a certain fixed sum of money. While the house was in course of construction, the workmen employed by the builder carelessly left a pile of timber, intended to be used in the house, on the sidewalk. The plaintiff, while walking hurriedly along the sidewalk one dark night, stumbled over the timber and suffered serious injuries. He sued the owner of the property for damages, but was nonsuited at the trial upon



two grounds. One was that he had been grossly negligent in walking so rapidly on a dark night, that the mere stumbling against a pile of timber would cause the injuries he had sustained. It is true that the Court failed to measure the exact speed at which a pedestrian should walk on a night of ordinary darkness, or yet what should be the exact limit of his injuries, in order to prevent the conclusion that he was careless; but the rule was laid down that greater caution must be exercised when darkness prevents a distinct and timely perception of obstacles in the way, when daylight affords ample opportunity to avoid that danger. The second ground for the dismissal of the action was that the builder and not the owner was responsible for the injury, if there was any legal remedy for the plaintiff. The builder having taken a contract for the building of the house, was not a servant of the owner of the property. He was pursuing an independent vocation, and the owner could exercise no control over him nor direct him as to the manner in which the work should be performed. All that the owner could do was to look to the builder for the completion of the building according to the precise terms of the contract. In all things else, the contractor was his own master, and independent of the wishes or demands of the one who engaged him. So the Court held, and it refused to admit the claim that if the contractor permitted the work to be done in an unskilful manner, the owner of the property was responsible for the evil consequences arising therefrom, because it was at the direction of the latter that the work was being done.

Whom to sue, when the party injured is free from any charge of contributory negligence, is often a very serious question. The responsibility for an accident is presumed to lie somewhere, and unless the person injured selects the one who is legally responsible, he will have his suit and its costs for nothing, to say nothing of his injuries. In cases of injuries inflicted by servants, the general rule of law is to hold the master responsible, with the strict limitation that the servant be engaged in the services for which he was employed at the time that the accident occurred. A case which has become authority, and which involved the recognition of both the rule and the limitation, presents the following facts: The plaintiff, while walking along the street, was run over by a horse and carriage owned by the defendant, and driven at the time by a coachman employed by the defendant. On the trial of the suit, it appeared that the coachman, previous to the time of the accident, had driven the defendant's family to their home, and had been directed to take the horse and carriage back to the stable. Without the defendant's knowledge, the coachman took a drive around town for his own pleasure, and it was while so engaged that the accident occurred. The Court held that the coachman alone was responsible for the injuries occasioned to the plaintiff, and that the defendant was not liable, as he had not hired the servant to engage in pleasure-driving for his own amusement. Several cases have been before the courts to decide which one of two persons should be held responsible for the negligence of a servant, the point being in whose employ the servant was when the injuries complained of were committed. In one case, a man hired a horse and carriage from a livery stable, and secured the services of a coachman who was employed at the stable. He agreed to pay the stable-keeper a stipulated sum for the use of the horse and carriage, and made a separate arrangement with the man, to whom he agreed to pay a certain sum for his services. An accident occurring, the question arose whether the driver was employed by the stable-keeper or the man who hired the conveyance. The Court held that the latter was certainly liable to the plaintiff, as he had employed the driver at his own risk; but it did not pass upon the question whether the hirer could fall back upon the livery stable-keeper for hiring to him an incompetent driver. Where a person is injured by a servant who, at the time, is working for another, without, in fact, being employed by him, it seems that there is no liability attaching to the one whose work is being done, except under extraordinary circumstances. A porter was sent by his employer to a store owned by the defendants, to get a box which had been purchased there some time before by his master. The porter informed the defendants that he would get the box himself, no one being ready to attend to him. The defendants making no objection, he went to an upper loft, where the box was, and attempted to lower it with the defendants' tackle. By his negligence, the box fell and injured the plaintiff, who was passing the defendants' store at the time. The Court held that the defendants were not liable, the porter not being in their employ, but performing an independent service, in which he was his own master. In all cases, the right of a passenger along a highway to be protected in his life and person, is recognized as inviolable. Where either is affected injuriously, a remedy is presumed to exist; but the responsibility does not always rest upon the one able to bear it, as in the case of the porter, who, it may be presumed, could not respond to any claim of damages, however great may have been his legal liability. But the right of the traveller is recognized to the extent that it is made the duty of property owners along the line of a highway to keep it in proper repair, and to see that it is at all times safe. For this reason, they are required to keep the sidewalks free from ice and snow, and to cover up any openings in or under them in a way that will secure absolute safety to the one who walks over them. There have been a number of cases where persons have been injured by slipping into improperly covered coal-

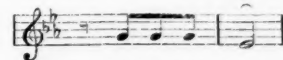
holes, or falling upon icy pavements, or into cellars and areas not sufficiently guarded. In all of them, the Courts have held that the owners are responsible, unless the party injured has himself been negligent, or unless, as already mentioned, the injury occurred when another person was engaged in a work covered by a contract with the owner; and then the contractor is responsible, whether the accident occurs through his own act or that of his servant.

## LITERATURE.

### MUSIC AS A LANGUAGE; OR, THE MEANING OF MUSICAL SOUNDS.

TO watch the operation of a joke on an obtuse person is assuredly sometimes funnier than the joke itself,—to see the blank stare, then the half-incredulous gleam of intelligence, as the suspicion of an idea dawns upon the victim,—the reproachful look as the idea gradually penetrates his thick skull, and the broadening grin as the full light of the joke flashes through his diaphanous brain. The keen intellectual enjoyment experienced by the average American boy in thus practicing upon the average numbskull is proverbial. In all countries there are to be found representatives of the Scotchman who could comprehend no joke until it had been forced into his head by means of a surgical operation; and though the average American is the antithesis of Sydney Smith's ultra matter-of-fact Scot, the joke-repeller is to be found, even in America. Blessed is the law of compensation! The obtuseness of one section of the community affords intense enjoyment to another section, and so the even balance is maintained. In the musical world such sources of amusement are plentiful. The pretensions of half-educated artists are usually funny enough, when they do not happen to be overwhelmingly sad, and the criticisms of the average newspaper critic are much funnier; but for unalloyed fun the musician can always find an abundant supply in the representative wiseacre who affects to understand all the hidden mysteries of music and to translate into the vulgar tongue the meaning of musical sounds. You can find him at every concert, and you can read his effusions in a great many newspapers. He has studied the question of "programme music" until he has fathomed the lowest depths and comprehended the loftiest flights of all ancient and modern compositions. Of course, there is in all this sort of speculation the germ of truthfulness. Mr. Goodrich, the author, has lighted upon many incontestable facts. It is the process of *reductio ad absurdum* resorted to by dabblers in music, that excites the laughter of logical musicians who have been gifted with the sense of humor. There is a story told of one of the great composers (we forget which), who, being appealed to by a knot of critics to settle their dispute as to the meaning of a certain passage, said: "Bless you, my good fellows, I didn't mean anything except to write good music!"—a reply that must have nonplussed them as completely as did that of the candid knife-grinder to the speculative Canning: "Story? God bless you! I have none to tell, sir!"

Some of our older readers may remember with what glee Carl Formes used to tell the story of his having been asked for his autograph by a certain royal admirer in Europe, and inscribing, in place of his signature, the four opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which the said royal personage was ever afterwards proud to show to his friends as an original musical idea, composed by the great basso. But the secret cause of Herr Formes's glee may not be so generally known, and as it applies to our subject it is worth telling, premising only that, as there are several versions of the funny story current among musicians, we do not vouch for its absolute correctness. The version having the greatest weight of authority is told with much unction to his most intimate friends by Mr. Theodore Thomas,—who, by the way, is identified with the story through the broad humor of a photographer, who printed the musical phrase in question at the top of an atrociously bad picture of the famous American conductor. The story runs thus: It was at the first Rhenish music festival that Mendelssohn conducted the performance of Beethoven's Symphony in C minor. Between the parts of the programme Mendelssohn was sauntering about the garden in which the festival was held, accompanied by a friend,—a celebrated painter,—when they were set upon by a fussy Berlin critic, who was bitterly opposed to Beethoven. Mendelssohn was greatly annoyed, and when the critic shouted out the opening notes of the Symphony,—



and, gesticulating wildly, exclaimed, "Tell me what that means!" Mendelssohn's friend interposed with, "Allow me to tell you what it means, sir. It means '*Lass' mich in Ruh!*'" Other versions of the story attribute the reply to Mendelssohn, and the actual words used as having been something much stronger than "Let me alone!" When it is remembered that Beethoven was himself questioned as to the intention of the opening phrase, and is reported to have explained by saying, "*So pocht das Schicksal an die Pforte*,"—"That is how fate knocks at the door,"—the point of the Mendelssohn story will be better appreciated.

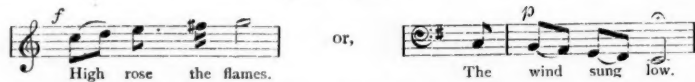
But to our book. Mr. J. A. Goodrich, who is undoubtedly an able analytical musician, and who is said to have had the advantage of the advice of two American composers of high repute,—Mr. Dudley Buck and Mr. J. H. Cornell,—neither of whom would be suspected of perpetrating a joke on the American public, states in his preface that he prepared his book having in view "two principal objects," namely:—

"1. To demonstrate that musical sounds can be so arranged or combined as to possess the power and capacity of an appreciable language.

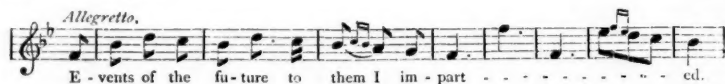
"2. To point out the causes which produce certain effects, and to so arrange and explain the examples that the entire matter may be reduced to a practical as well as theoretical basis."

And the writer has succeeded in demonstrating the one and pointing out the other—with a difference. Nobody will dispute that certain musical sounds *can* be arranged so as to possess the power and capacity of an appreciable language; but the inference that music can supply the place of words is not warranted. Music enhances or enforces any verbal expression of the ideas of motion, condition or emotion; it cannot be made to do duty in place of ordinary language.

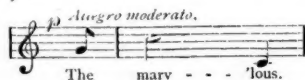
Almost at the outset of his book, Mr. Goodrich upsets his own theory; for, while attempting to show that the words "high," "low," "soft," "fast," "slow," may be musically expressed, as in the examples he gives:—



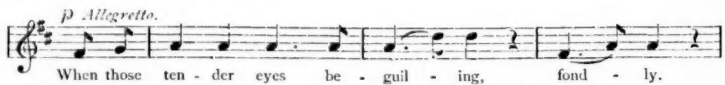
accompanying these self-evident illustrations with the profound remark that "high sounds suggest height; low sounds suggest depth; quick notes illustrate rapidity; slow notes convey an impression of slowness;" and asserting that, "by commencing with a low sound and gradually ascending higher, (*sic*) we could convey an idea of such a scene as the rising of the moon," he proceeds to declare that "whatever has the character or quality of a complex conception, or a purely mental operation, can have no companionship with music;" which, taken literally, entirely upsets the whole theory of the modern programme music, as conceived and practically illustrated by Dr. Liszt, in his "Symphonic Poems,"—the theory Mr. Goodrich has certainly adopted. And that there should be no misunderstanding on this subject, Mr. Goodrich further says: "An abstract idea is diametrically opposed to the emotional quality of music." This is on page 6; but on page 81, in the course of a clever analysis of Beethoven's "Sonata Patetica," he describes the *rondo* as "a musical sketch of the battle of life," ending with "a few calm sounds, full of hope and regret for the vanities and vices of earth, and then an impulsive, angry phrase, which seems to say: 'Fie on thee, world of scorn! Pomp and mockery are thy delights! There is only one virtue,—the eternal sacrifice of self!'" As if that were not a "mental operation" and the expression of an "abstract idea!" It is by such contradictions that Mr. Goodrich proves the falsity of his premises. As again, on page 24, he quotes a passage from Donizetti's song "La Zingara":—



to show that "the act of *imparting*, *i. e.*, to bestow, to transfer from one person to another, is beautifully represented by the skips of an octave, ascending and descending, in the melody;" while, on page 41, he says that the leap of an octave in *Gabriel's* solo (Haydn's "Creation") :—



"conveys to the mind the impression of something wonderful or stupendous." *Ergo*, "the act of imparting" is "something wonderful." Again, in a passage from a *canzonette* for tenor, by Mozart :—



Mr. Goodrich, speaking of the use of the *portamento* in vocal music, says that "the actual sense and meaning" of the word "beguiling" is represented by the glide of the voice, and that the word "fondly" is "very properly expressed in the same manner." Yet Mr. Goodrich would not pretend that the meaning of a *major fourth*, ascending *portamento*, or a *minor third*, ascending *portamento*, is confined to the words "beguiling" and "fondly," or even to the ideas associated with them. Another illustration from Haydn's "Creation" is given in support of his theory :—



The notes accompanying the words "into the clouds" and "ascend," will do well enough; but does Mr. Goodrich wish us to believe that the tremendous interval, a twelfth descending, expresses "their tops?" But for these, and a few other defects, Mr. Goodrich's book is interesting, useful, and well written. It is only for his fanciful theories that he deserves to be laughed at. And no more complete overturning of his leading idea need be suggested, than that words having an entirely different meaning (not opposite,) be substituted for those used in his examples. We might then see what comes of reducing "the entire matter to a practical as well as theoretical basis." The book would have been more acceptable had it not been so freely interlarded with common-places. It was not necessary for Mr. Goodrich to tell us that certain "sounds, independently of the style, are suggestive of some sentiment or emotion;" that the cuckoo's call, being a *major third*, is a cheering sound; and that the same applies to the cackling of a hen, "likewise the barking of a dog—when the dog is in good spirits;" because everybody knows that *major thirds* are cheerful, as *minor thirds* are sad. Nor need he have told us that, "in considering music as a language, it will be necessary to observe that rhythm, lights and shades, punctuation marks, and the various dynamical signs and characters used in music, all play their part." Obvious as these simple rules are, however, exception may be found to some of them. Some of Chopin's most melancholy music, for instance, is written in rapid time, and there are many slow, majestic marches that are bright and cheerful.

But the design of the greater part of Mr. Goodrich's book is admirable; and all earnest musical students will find in it interesting and valuable information and suggestions. Mr. Goodrich, as a musician, is thoroughly trustworthy, and most of his remarks would be agreed to by the best musicians of any country. His examples of composers' blunders in writing lively music to sad words, as in the duet, "Hear me, Norma," and the prison scene in "*Il Trovatore*," and his examples of characteristic and descriptive music,—vocal and instrumental illustrations of the art of musical expression—from the works of Gounod, Reinecke, Saint-Saens, Wagner, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Blumenthal, and a hundred others, among whom are many American composers, are all excellent.

But we recommend to all theorists on the subject of music as a language, the employment of plain sense. The student of music must look beyond words for the hidden meaning of musical sounds. As Hans Von Bülow once said to the writer of this article, "Music is above language; it is the culmination of all the arts." When Mendelssohn returned from Scotland, his sisters asked him to describe Fingal's Cave; but, being only a musician, he said, "It cannot be told—only played;" and he then played the themes which he afterwards used in his "Hebrides" overture. It is foolish to attempt to attach definite meanings in the vulgar tongue to any combinations of musical notes, for on examination most of them will be found to be fictitious. Schumann once pointed out that different meanings are attached to the same pieces of music at different periods of life. As in the case of the phrase from Beethoven given above, the arbitrary meaning may sometimes fit as well as the theoretical one. And sometimes a meaning may be attached to a phrase by general consent without ever being put into words. This was done by a party of musicians, all friends of Mr. Thomas, when Mr. George Ward Nichols went to New York to arrange about the directorship of the Cincinnati College of Music. As the negotiations went on, every proposition made by the Cincinnati that was not considered favorable to Mr. Thomas's interests, was met with the warning phrase with which Liszt's First Concerto begins :



"What do you mean by that?" asked Mr. Nichols, in bewilderment; and probably to this day he does not know that everybody present, except himself, understood perfectly well what was meant, although nobody thought of putting the phrase into words. G. Schirmer, New York. 1881.

THE ORIGIN OF PRIMITIVE SUPERSTITIONS.—It is evident to the initiated that Mr. Rushton M. Dorman's work on "Primitive Superstitions in the New World" has been inspired by Spencer's "Sociology," and he might have frankly admitted it without detracting anything from the credit due him as an author. His book may be briefly described as a valuable compilation, an ingenious classification of aboriginal American superstitions, after the manner of Hubert Bancroft, rather than that of Tylor, Lubbock, and Conway. That is to say, the author lets the facts speak for themselves, and does not write in support of his own theories,—if, indeed, he has any. We are disposed to think that this was his wisest course; for, when he ventures occasionally to leave his guides, Spencer and Tylor, and present explanations of his own, he betrays his lack of inductive genius. He is, on the other hand, to be commended for most earnest industry and patient toil in the compilation of the work. He has the whole literature of the subject at his fingers' ends; he has a good organizing faculty; he has sifted a library for his selections, and, under such headings as "Doctrine of Spirits," "Burial Customs," "Animal and Tree Worship," "Sabaism," and "Priestcraft," has arranged a mass of material that is not only very entertaining reading, but forms a valuable work of reference for all students of primitive man. He has done for the single department of the religion of the aborigines of both Americas, what Bancroft has done for the entire range of the customs of the native races of the Pacific coast.

The full title of the book,—*"The Origin of Primitive Superstitions, and their Development into the Worship of Spirits and the Doctrine of Spiritual Agency among the Aborigines of America,"*—is pretentious and misleading; for, as we have said, the work is little more than a compilation or classification of facts, forming a very attractive volume. The work is a store-house of native American fairy and folk lore. Those to whom the study of our aboriginal mythology is new, will be most impressed by the remarkable parallelism between the New and Old World primitive mind. Fairies, giants, were-wolves, divination and augury, transmigration, metamorphosis, demonology,—we have them all in the most picturesque native growths. The Ojibways have their fairies; during a shower, thousands of them find shelter in a flower; the insect's hum is their voice; they dance over the ground like thistles. The Otoes believe that a certain hill is peopled with little devils, about eighteen inches high, with remarkably large heads, and armed with bows and arrows. Sleep is thought to be produced by invisible fairies, the prince of whom is named Weeng. Each one is armed with a tiny club, by a blow of which upon the forehead he produces sleep. Weeng has been seen sitting upon the branch of a tree, in the shape of a giant insect, with many wings upon his back, which make a deep, murmuring sound, like distant falling water. Weeng is also the author of dullness. In his chapter on the Doctrine of Spirits, Mr. Dorman cites authorities to show that, contrary to the received opinion, very many tribes believed in a separate abode, and a special punishment, as the lot of the wicked. A great many tribes believe that the spirits of the dead must cross a stream to arrive at the land of spirits; the means of crossing are such things as a slippery log, a huge serpent, or a magic stone canoe. To the Indians, as to all primitive people, water, air, earth and sky are fairly crowded with spirits. There was a continual transmigration of these souls, or manitous. Every minutest detail of the life of



the Indian was ordered with reference to the hosts of ghosts around him. When the Indian prayed to an animal, he was addressing the powerful spirit resident in it. Each man took the spirit of some animal as his tutelary divinity; his medicine-bag of charms was composed with reference to it, and its image became the totem of his descendants. The spirits of animals passed into men to their injury. The whole system of medicine, priest-craft, incantation, owed its existence to the endeavor to expel evil spirits from the body. "An old Dacotah, whose son had sore eyes, said that, nearly thirty years before, when his son was a boy, he fastened a pin to a stick and speared a minnow with it, and it was strange that the fish, after so long a time, should come to seek revenge on his son's eyes."

We do not think Mr. Dorman is successful in his explanation of the strange custom of the "convade." He makes a slip in saying that the belief of some Indians that intoxication by tobacco was supernatural ecstasy, explains "the use of tobacco in so many religious ceremonies." But in most cases tobacco is offered as a deprecatory sacrifice, as being the most valuable article in the Indian's possession, and so corresponding to first fruits, frankincense and the like, with other peoples. On page 145, Mr. Dorman speaks of the limited prevalence of cannibalism among North American Indians, and expresses his belief that the custom had an animistic origin, the spirit of a brave enemy being transferred to the one who ate of him. This is probably true; but Mr. Dorman fails to tell us that the idea is not his own, but borrowed from Spencer and Tylor. One hardly knows what to quote out of the infinite riches of this work. In the second chapter we find an account of a curious god of the Dacotahs, called Heyoka. He is their anti-natural god. In one of his four forms he is the invisible zephyr which moves the grass, and ripples the surface of the water. "Heyoka is a perfect paradox. He calls bitter sweet, and sweet bitter; he groans when he is full of joy; he laughs when he is in distress; in winter he goes naked, and in summer wraps up in buffalo robes." In the chapter on Fetichism, we have an explanation of scalping; the spirit of a man residing in every portion of his body, the possession of any portion thereof by any enemy would put a man in the power of the enemy. Tattooing the body with the figures of animals was also fetichistic, the picture of any thing having a share of the spirit of the original. In his chapter on Burial Customs, Mr. Dorman takes sides with many authorities he quotes, to the effect that the ancient mounds of America were the work of the wild tribes. But he certainly only succeeds in proving that the smaller mounds *might have been* built by the Indians, and he very cautiously shuns the giant mounds and elaborate earthworks. That the animal effigies of Wisconsin and Ohio resemble the Indian totems, is no proof whatever of their being constructed by savage tribes. One might as well say that the Egyptian sphinx and the Assyrian bulls prove that their constructors were totemic savages. From the chapter on Animal Worship, the following pretty myths are gathered: The natives of Vancouver's Island call a certain little squirrel the ogress squirrel, and refuse to kill it. They relate that "there once lived an old woman, with finger-nails like claws. She ate children, and many were the broken hearts and empty cradles produced by her depredations. At the prayer of the red mother, says the tradition, her little child slips from the ogress's grip,—not a child, but metamorphosed into the loveliest little squirrel, bearing those four dark lines along its back, where her cruel claws made their mark." In British Columbia were-wolves have often been seen by the natives sitting around a fire on the mountain-side, with their skins hung up on sticks to dry. Another child-eating ogress was killed by some boys, who pushed her into a fire she had kindled to roast them by; "her ashes were turned into mosquitoes, who now eat mankind." The Iroquois had traditions of flying heads, of monstrous size, which, "enveloped in beards and hair of flaming fire, rushed through the air like shooting stars or falling meteors, threatening the destruction of the nation." Brazilian Indians tell of a bird with an evil eye, which kills with a look. There is a myth that a hunter once killed one of these, and cut off its head without the eye being turned upon him. He killed his game thereafter by turning the evil eye upon it. "His wife, not dreaming of its destructive power, once turned it toward her husband, and killed him, and then accidentally turned it toward herself and died." The North American Indians relate that the mythical hero Manabozho was one day walking along the banks of a river, and, seeing some ducks, called to them to come to him. He finally got them into his lodge, and ranged them in a circle around him. He had a sack around his neck, and his Indian flute in his hand. He told them to all shut their eyes tight while he played upon the flute, and under no circumstances to open them until he gave the word for the dance to begin. They did so; the playing began, and the ducks waited impatiently for the signal to dance. Every now and then the sound of the flute would be interrupted by a smothered "quack." At last one duck could stand it no longer, and, peeping out of the corner of one eye, saw the hero in the act of choking a duck and thrusting it into the bag. "Edging a little out of the circle, it cried, 'Open your eyes,' and flew. Manabozho grasped her back with his hand; but she escaped, with, however, her back curved to its present shape, and her neck unnaturally stretched forward. The same plight came upon many others at the same time."

Before laying down Mr. Dorman's volume, we must state that it is furnished with some twenty-six admirable illustrations, four of them full-page colored plates, and a rather meagre index; and that it is handsomely printed on good paper, and bound in black linen, with red borders. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. 1881. Large octavo. Pp. 398.

THE LEGEND OF THOMAS DIDYMUS.—By James Freeman Clarke.—It would be impossible to deny that books of this sort, aiming, in the words of the author, "to reproduce the times in which Jesus appeared, the characters who surrounded him, the opinions, beliefs and prejudices of the Jewish sects and people," and presenting Jesus, not idealized by the reverence and worship of centuries, but as He may have appeared to the people of his own day, a prophet full of divine power, yet a man like themselves, are popular; that the increase in their number and the variety of methods of treatment

sufficiently demonstrates. And it would be difficult for those who hold that harm is done by this method of treatment to establish their proposition. The age demands popularization, atmosphere, color, and these add to the life and truth as well as to the attractiveness of the picture. The reader of Kingsley's "Hypatia," of Dean Stanley's "Christian Institutions," of "Rabbi Jeshua," of "The Legend of Thomas Didymus," will carry away from the perusal a better and clearer idea of the time, its life and beliefs, without any sacrifice of reverence. For too many good people the Saviour and His disciples are little more than mere voices and abstractions,

"And Christ a shadow crucified,"

To how many men and women of our daily acquaintance does the word "Pharisee" or "Sadducee" convey a flesh and blood meaning? A good many clergymen even, might stumble and stammer when asked off-hand to describe the Essenes; do not the majority of them confidently assert that Calvary was "a mountain high?" In the book under notice there is a commentary on the Gospels and all the events in the life of Christ; with a description of Jerusalem, Palestine and Alexandria, their social life as well as their geography; a representation of the habits of thought and customs of Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, of the teachings of Philo and the teachings of Gamaliel; and an elaborate study of Christ as he appeared to all those with whom he came in contact, from the zealot Jew to the Roman Stoic, from Peter to Thomas. "Not seeking to accept," says the author, "nor hastening to deny what is unintelligible, I have left much as I have found it, veiled in the obscurity of tradition." While he holds that some acts now regarded as miraculous were not necessarily so—as when he accounts for the feeding of the five thousand, and the finding of a piece of money in the mouth of a fish, (the latter is described as a fisher's proverb, "Let us find it in a fish's mouth," equivalent to "Let us catch some fish and sell them,")—he takes his stand firmly on the miracle of the Resurrection, without which Christianity would have been forever buried in the Master's grave. (As a good specimen of his treatment, see chapter xii., notably the explanation of the Temptation.) There are some very good pieces of character-drawing, as the sketches of Peter, the relentless Ben-Gamlah, and Miriam, and the management of the narrative must be called successful, when it is said to be ingenious without seeming in anything incongruous or leaving an impression of puerility. As for the style, we could have spared an occasional adjective (like "dear,") in the descriptive passages, such as only impair the vividness of word-painting; but the least friendly critic must credit Mr. Clarke with the gift, as valuable as rarely found, of completely identifying himself with his character of the moment, down to the least trick of speech and thought. Nothing, for instance, could be better in its *genre* than the letter of a Sadducee at Jerusalem to his Epicurean friend at Rome, describing the career and analyzing the character of Christ:

"How much better it would have been, if, instead of his devoting himself to these empty subtleties of religion, he had applied his intellect to the study of natural laws! If he could only have read Epicurus and Lucretius, it might have saved him. Now he has thrown away his life, and his great powers are lost forever to mankind. He has ceased to be! The atoms of which he was composed, which, by their fortunate combination, resulted in this fine organism, are dissolved and gone. In a few years, he will be entirely forgotten, and his influence cease forever. I suppose that in half a century from now no one will remember his name. If he had devoted himself to something positive, to some real knowledge, to something which would have helped his fellow-men, he might have been remembered with the great men of old. His fame might have rivalled that—I will not say of Democritus or Epicurus, for that would be extravagant, but of such men as Hemarchus, Polystratus, the profuse Apollodorus, Orion, Demetrius the Laconian, and other great teachers of the school of Epicurus. I know you will consider me enthusiastic in saying this. . . . I was speaking with one of his followers the other day, by name Simon; and it was painful to see in what a poor, provincial dialect he spoke. Another was with him, whose name was, I think, Matthias, or Mattathias. Both related many incidents in their Master's life, which would have been interesting if told with literary skill." Lee & Shepard, Boston, 1881.

BELIEF IN GOD.—By Minot J. Savage.—This examination of some fundamental Theistic problems (to which is appended an address on "The Intellectual Basis of Faith," by the author's brother), includes eight discourses delivered in the regular order of Dr. Savage's work, and now submitted to a wider audience, in the hope that they may be of use in convincing, or, at least, in stimulating to inquiry. They attracted no little attention at the time of their delivery, and when published in *Unity Pulpit*, and merited it for their clearness and courage. Perhaps the most striking of their number is the last—"The Glory and the Shame of Atheism." "In the nature of things," says Mr. Savage, "God can only be an ideal, even when framed of all fresh, living and advancing thought, and may, if only a traditional image, be but an idol. The finite, of course, can have only a finite image or thought of that which on all sides transcends all thought. For all practical purposes, and so far as it goes, this may be correct enough, but it must inevitably and forever fall short of reality, and the broader knowledge of each age will do away with the ideal of its predecessor, to substitute in its place a new, a higher, and a more approximating reality. Men have their ideal of God, but the great majority of men have not learned that it is only an ideal, and, confounding their mental notion with the reality, transform their ideal into an idol blindly and slavishly worshipped and identified with God; and when it is touched by some new prophet of a better day, slay him as an enemy of God; or, if his attack be successful, think that religion is dead, and the universe is Godless and hopeless. Find any man who marks an epoch of religious advance, from the time of Abraham to that of Theodore Parker, and you stand face to face with an atheist,—one who denied the popular conception of God, and dared to believe that He was better than the people supposed." "If the world is to see any higher or brighter future, it is needful that the

popular gods of to-day should be pushed from their thrones to make way for higher and better ideals. It is impossible that man should become much better than the God he really worships. But the popular ideal of God to-day is not so good as the highest type of man. Men are perpetually wishing he was better, and praying to him to be better and kinder than he is. No good man would think of defending the God of the popular creeds, if he were found in any other religion than our own. The only way to be a 'friend of God,' like Abraham,—a friend of the living and true God,—is to be an atheist toward the lower and imperfect ideals of the past." Highly as this sort of atheism is commended, as having in it the germ of all future hope for man, all that goes by that name is not necessarily to be eulogized, or even tolerated, and Dr. Savage is perfectly Athodox in his bearing towards "the deadly atheism which is to be feared and shunned," to which self is the only law and obligation, is empty of meaning,—whose ultimate and logical outcome is despair. "Real atheism," the author concludes, "is weakness and despair,—a lone battle against the nature of things. Theism is a recognition of the laws and forces of the world, and a conscious union with them in working out some worthy destiny. This is life, and strength, and external hope." Geo. H. Ellis, Boston. 1881.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR WALLS?—Under this title Mr. Clarence Cook has written an agreeable little volume of thirty-five pages, to meet an old and vexed question. The question of wall-paper is treated at length with vigor, good taste and clearness; and Mr. Cook furnishes many excellent hints to an artistic decorating of a room. Some excellent wall-paper designs in black and gold and color, by Messrs. L. C. Tiffany and Samuel Coleman, render the book still more attractive. Warren, Fuller & Co., New York. 1881.

#### AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

THE Harper-Scribner war goes on warmly. The Harpers have published cheap editions of the "Metemich Memoirs," Froude's "Caesar," and other books brought out by Scribner. Curiously enough, the New York *Sun*, in reviewing the "Memoirs" thus long after their publication, credits them to the former firm only. The circumstantial story, originally in that journal of a *Scribner's Weekly*, to rival *Harper's*, was the outcome of a little chaff at dinner between two or three journalists, and was wholly unauthorized and unfounded.

Messrs. A. S. Williams & Co., of Boston, have raised the price of Admiral Geo. H. Preble's book on the flags of the United States and other countries, \$2 a volume, which testifies to the success of the custom of limiting editions.

Macmillan is to make another interesting contribution to the literature of the Irish question, by reprinting Edmund Burke's "Letters and Papers on Irish Affairs," with a preface by that most accomplished of preface writers, Mr. Matthew Arnold.

Parton's long-promised "Life of Voltaire" is soon to see the light. In this connection it is worth observing that the new edition of Voltaire's letters, published under the editorship of M. Louis Moland, has reached its ninth volume, and will be completed in four more. It contains all the letters published in recent years; but when the fact is recalled that Voltaire was the most indefatigable of correspondents, sometimes writing thirty letters a day, it may well be doubted whether this will be a "definitive" edition.

"The Waiters' and Cooks' Weekly" is the name of the latest trade paper established at New York.

Messrs. D. Lothrop & Co. of Boston have in preparation a subscription edition of the poetry of Paul Hamilton Hayne, with a portrait and illustrations, and an introduction by Margaret J. Preston.

There seems (says a New York contemporary,) to be little doubt in the minds of those who know Miss Tinker, that her last book, "By the Tiber," is autobiographical. The character of Miss Kromo is so evidently intended for Miss Anne Brewster that it has been at once recognized. The fact, too, that the heroine refers to her first novel having a clover-leaf stamped on the cover, points directly to the author's first venture, "Signor Monaldini's Niece," published in the "No Name" series.

"Manuela Parédes" is the title of the forthcoming "No Name" novel.

A life of Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio, by Canon Carus, is announced as soon to appear in London. Eliot Stock, publisher.

Mr. J. W. Bouton of New York announces a twin volume to "The Treatise of Fyshynge with an Angle,"—"The Boke of St. Albans," by the same author, Dame Juliana Berners. It is to be a photographic reproduction, on rough hand-made paper, of fifteenth century style, with vellum binding.

The superiority of American wood-engraving is no longer challenged in England, even by the most insular of critics. The London *Times*, apropos of the second series of "proofs" from *Scribner's Magazine* and *Saint Nicholas*, remarks that in it "the American wood-engravers show themselves far in advance of all artists of their craft," and especially lauds the work of Mr. S. Cole. But it is over Mr. Gibson's "Pastoral Days," published last Christmas by the Harpers, that the *Times* goes into the highest ecstasy, its admiration not being confined to the engravings only. Says the *Times*:

"These cuts are exceptional examples of beautiful work, giving all the freedom and nice flow of line, with the true character of the forms that the original drawing set before the translator. Nothing in the whole round of wood-engraving can surpass, if it has even equalled, these in delicacy as well as breadth of effect. Much as our English cutters pride themselves on belonging to the school which Bewick and Jackson founded, they must certainly come to these American artists to learn the something more which is to be found in their works. In point of printing, too, there is much to be learned in the extremely fine ink and paper, which, although subjected to 'hot-pressing,' are evidently adapted in some special condition for wood-printing. The printing is obviously by hand-press, and in the arrangement of the type with the cuts on each page, the greatest ingenuity and invention are displayed."

Obviously, American bibliography has made an advance from the time when it was asked contemptuously, "Who reads an American book?"

Mr. E. A. Freeman has completed and published his "Historical Geography of Europe," begun (and, indeed, partly printed,) some years ago, but delayed in its completion by various causes, including his absence from England.

The Rev. James Pratt is shortly to publish, with Griffith and Farran, London, a versified version of the Song of Solomon. He contends that the allegorical view of the book is not the correct one, and will present what he regards as the true interpretation.

"Who wrote 'Goody Two Shoes?'" is a question once more exciting the *littérateurs* of England. It was originally printed by Newberry of London, for whom Goldsmith wrote many books and tracts to which his name was not appended; but to another of Newberry's hacks,—Giles Jones,—the delightful romance is commonly attributed. A correspondent of the *Athenaeum* now comes forward and makes an argument in favor of the claims of Goldsmith, which most unprejudiced folk will incline to consider conclusive.

Alexander Bain's "Logic, Deductive and Inductive," has been translated into Spanish.

The *Academy* says:—"Mr. Tennyson has, we are glad to hear, given careful and full readings of his chief dialectal poems to the Nestor of phoneticians, Mr. Alexander J. Ellis, the present president of the Philological Society. Mr. Ellis has carefully corrected his previously prepared phonetic copies of Mr. Tennyson's texts by the Laureate's own pronunciation, so that his very tones and accents will be reproducible to all time from Mr. Ellis's copies, as music is from notes. These copies will be printed in the fifth part of Mr. Ellis's great work on Early-English Pronunciation for the Philological, Early-English Text and New Shakspeare Societies, which will contain the English dialects, and will be published next year."

The revised version of the New Testament is not only the joint property of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, but the editions of the version issued by the two University Presses are identical in every respect, except in regard to the word "Oxford" or "Cambridge" on the title-pages. The type, form, binding and the price are the same.

M. Albert Delpit, author of the sensational novel "*Le Fils de Coralie*," has just brought out another story with Ollendorff, of Paris, "*Le Père de Martial*."

The second volume of M. Gambetta's political speeches and pleadings, compiled by M. Joseph Reinach, has just made its appearance. This part embraces the period between Feb. 19, 1871, and July 24, 1872, and contains some of M. Gambetta's most telling speeches in the National Assembly and at Republican banquets. The various notes and explanations are also carefully worked up, so that a full light is at once thrown on the subject in hand, large portions of each debate being recapitulated in full as aids to the text.

Hugo's new book, "The Four Winds of the Spirit," will be published by Calmann Lévy, of Paris, in the second week of May. It will be in two volumes, each in two parts, the first volume containing satirical and dramatic verse, the second lyrical and epic. The lyric portion consists of a comedy, "Margarita," and a drama, "Esca," with, as its epigraph, "*Gallus, Escam querens, Margaritam reperit*."

Were Byron alive, he would have an excuse for repeating his bitter saying that "the Italians would sell anything." When the monasteries were suppressed, the libraries of thirty-seven of their number were ordered to be fused in one grand collection, to bear the name of Victor Emanuel. There were—naturally—some scandals developed in the process, but the public was hardly prepared for the disclosures just made in an official report on the conduct of the Minister of Public Instruction who preceded Signor de Sanctis. Thousands of volumes have disappeared, no one knows where, and cart-loads of manuscript have been sold as waste paper, or as old parchment, to any one who chose to value them at the conventional penny a pound. Day after day wagons bore off these garnered harvests of ages, evidently without the custodians taking the trouble to inquire whether the books were valuable or useless, and that all were not in the latter category may be inferred from the fact that, from among the "rubbish" thus disposed of, the officials of the Public Library of Florence purchased six thousand volumes. A cheesemonger had in his possession precious parchments and printed books of such rarity as "*Il Processo degli Untori di Milano*," and altogether there seems to have been a tossing about of literary treasures, such as Italy has not experienced since the Vandals sacked Rome, or Abdoolah of Khorassan made havoc with the Persian manuscripts within his kingdom.

A new biography of Rouget de L'Isle, by a M. Cliquet, has just appeared, which, though it does not add anything of importance to the history of "*La Marseillaise*," gives some interesting facts concerning its author's life—notably, the fact that he killed his betrothed in 1780, on her birthday, by letting off a firework which struck her on the head.

Professor Helmholtz's visit to England, to deliver the "Faraday Lecture," has been one long ovation. In addition to social and technical distinctions of various kinds, he has received the degree of LL. D. from Cambridge, and of D. C. L. from Trinity College, Dublin, and would have received the same honor from Oxford, had not the list for the year been filled—an odd and rather inopportune restriction.

Alphonse Daudet has begun, in the *Indépendance Belge*, the publication of a series of articles, giving the history of his own books in detail—where and how the ideas came to him, how the characters were found, etc. The interest and value of such revelations by such an acknowledged master of construction and management, may be imagined.

A French bibliophile, M. A. Labitte, offers for sale a copy of Ronsard, bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet,—price \$4.400.

Some journals, copying THE AMERICAN'S notes on the forthcoming volume of Talleyrand's correspondence with Louis XVIII., during the Congress of Vienna, have founded the letters with his memoirs. The latter may be published in 1883 or 1884, but will probably not see the light before the close of the decade. Earl Granville has allowed the publication of some of the letters preserved in the English archives, but the collection will not contain the most important portion of Talleyrand's secret correspondence.

When the new and complete edition of Lucien Bonaparte's memoirs is published, Jerome Bonaparte's sagacity and devotion to his great brother's interests will be shown by a remarkable letter on the condition of Germany on the eve of the war with Russia, which is almost incredible that Napoleon should have disregarded.

A valuable little desk companion is L. J. Campbell's "Handbook of English Synonyms," with a happy appendix showing the correct use of prepositions. To this is added a collection of foreign phrases. Mr. Campbell's work has been well conceived and well executed. Lee & Shepard, of Boston, are the publishers.

The same firm has brought out a new volume of "Advanced Readings and Recitations," by Austin B. Fletcher, A. M., LL. B. A great many of our old friends are included: "The Burial of Moses," "The Eve before Waterloo," "Hamlet's Soliloquy," "John Burns of Hittysburg," "The Raven," etc.; but bound up with them are a number that hitherto have not found a place,—though worthy of it,—in the various "readers" now before the public. Mr. Fletcher's selection is a commendable one, and his book is published in most excellent style.

Brigadier-General Richard W. Johnson (retired,) has written a memoir of the hero of Chickamauga, Major-General George H. Thomas. Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have published the book, which is elaborately illustrated with portraits, well printed and bound. The funeral exercises, and those connected with the dedication of the Thomas monument, are included in the 322 pages of which the book consists. General Johnson writes well; he is evidently inspired with a love of his subject, and has taken pains to put himself in possession of every fact bearing on his hero. The story is therefore readable, reliable and valuable.



## DRIFT.

—Another indication of the interest taken in American affairs in England, is afforded by the establishment in the aristocratic *Morning Post*, of London, of a column of "American Notes." But what the English newspaper-reading public really wants, is a good daily cable letter.

—The completest complication in the way of divorce, has been attained in New Philadelphia, O., where a woman is suing her former husband for breach of promise of re-marriage.

—Mr. Frye, in his recent speech in the Senate, spoke of "a looker-on in Venice," and the Pennsylvania State Legislature has been considering a bill to "use the services of constables to bring children before aldermen who are growing up in ignorance."

—Mr. Gladstone forgot, as the head of his household, to sign his name at the bottom of his census paper, which was duly returned to him for correction.

—It is now stated—but the correction stands small chance of catching the falsehood, which has a fortnight's start—that the twin brothers caught in a burglary at Andover were not in any sense, present or prospective, theological students. They were members of Phillips' Academy, the celebrated preparatory school for colleges, and had not the remotest connection with the theological seminary in the same town. Furthermore, they never professed piety or even a religious belief. Their creed was avowed, blatant infidelity, and they had already begun to excite the suspicion of their teachers and the disapproval of their schoolmates.

—At Rio de Janeiro, a journal entitled *A Mulher* has been started. It is devoted to the interests of the women of Brazil, and is edited by the Senhoras D. Josepha d'Oliveira and D. Generosa Estrella.

—The London *Daily News* alludes to the capture of an English journalist, a Mr. Suter, by brigands at Salonica, with the graceful and gracious adaptation of a familiar classical proverb, "*Ne Suter extra Salonica*."

—Mr. Terry, the English comedian, has just been elected to the School Board for Twickenham, his colleague being the rector of the parish.

—Another instance has been afforded in the English courts of the fatality which seems to attend the wills of eminent judges, by the case of the will of the late Mr. Baron Cleasby. The personal estate of the testator, which was very large, had been placed with great care in numerous investments, including shares in public undertakings; but the will only authorized the trustees to retain "securities," which would not extend to the shares in question!

—It is a remarkable fact that the three most celebrated delineators during the present century of the mischievous *Peggy* in Garrick's version of Wycherley's "Country Girl," all attained more than the ordinary length of life—viz., Miss Sally Booth, who died in 1867, aged 75; Miss Eliza O'Neil (Lady Beecher), who died in 1872, aged 80; and Mrs. Harlowe, who died in 1852, aged 87.

—The wind of controversy and reminiscence still sets in the quarter of Carlyle. In explanation of Carlyle's ill-natured remarks, in his "Reminiscences," about Charles Lamb, the following story is told: The two were once members of a company who were taken to see a pen of exceptionally fine game-fowls. Carlyle, in his high moral manner, began to improve the occasion by expatiating upon the lessons to be learned from the birds. At last poor, stammering Lamb broke in: "P-p-p-perhaps you're a p-p-p-poulterer?" In Mr. Wylie's work,—"Thomas Carlyle, the Man and his Books,"—another severe criticism on Lamb is given as follows: "What interest have you in Lamb? 'I like his humor.' 'Humor—he had no humor.' We mildly submitted our belief that he had. 'You are mistaken—it was only a thin streak of Cockney wit,' this phrase uttered with a shrill shout expressive of ineffable contempt; and then the speaker added: 'I dare say you must have known some—I have known scores—of Scotch moorland farmers, who, for humor, could have blown Lamb into the zenith!' The pictorial effect of this figure, delivered in a high Annandale key, especially when the speaker came to the last clause of the sentence, it is impossible for print to convey. The listener saw poor Lamb spinning off into space, propelled thither by the contemptuous kick of a lusty Dandie Dinmont, in hodden grey, from the moors of Galloway or Ayrshire. 'The only thing really humorous about Lamb,' he continued, 'was his personal appearance,—his suit of rusty black, his spindle-shanks, his knee-breeches, the bit of ribbons fllein' at the knees o' him; indeed, he was humor personified!' This last clause again in the high key, making the figure effective and mirth-compelling to a degree." Carlyle figures very unenviably in the light of certain letters just published by Mrs. B. W. Procter, which show that in 1824 and 1825, when Carlyle,—a rough, awkward Scotch youth,—was in need of clothes, books, pecuniary aid, and literary society, the Procters freely furnished him all, and afforded him the opportunity through which he entered to fame, and that in those days he appreciated their friendship. Mrs. Procter, in sending the letters, writes in behalf of herself, her children and her grand-children, whom, she says, these malignant lies pain; and in a tone of sadness, closes as follows: "The libels that have been printed nothing can ever efface. The whole reading world will know, and no doubt believe, what Mr. Thomas Carlyle has written. There is something shameful in the spectacle of the successful literary man sitting down deliberately to vilify the memory of those who smiled upon him, and helped him when he was obscure and friendless," and, with a gentle hint to the editor of the "Reminiscences," she adds: "He should beware how he strikes who strikes with a dead hand."

Finally, in the book already mentioned, Mrs. Wylie makes a very successful attempt to settle the authorship of some verses which appeared in 1834 in "Leigh Hunt's *London Journal*." He is of opinion that they must have been by Carlyle, and the evidence he adduces is certainly striking. The subject is the "River Orr." Here are two of the stanzas:—

From Being's source it bounded,  
The morn when time began;  
Since through this moor has sounded,  
Unheard or heard of man.

That day they crossed the Jordan,  
When Hebrew trumpets rang,  
Thy wave no foot was treading,  
Yet here in moor it sang.

In "Sartor Resartus," Teufelsdröckh reflects that the Kubbach "had flowed and gurgled, through all changes of weather and of fortune, from beyond the earliest date of history. Yes, probably on the morning when Joshua forded Jordan." The coincidence here is so remarkable that Mr. Wylie's conclusion is almost unavoidable; and it is rendered all the more probable by the fact that the poem contains nothing which is not in accordance with Carlyle's modes of thought.

—A London house-owner, whose house stood on a small lot and projected into the street, has just circumvented the authorities. If he had torn it "down" and re-built it they would have compelled him to move it back, and so have spoiled the site for his purposes. So he put on a new upper story, and then put in a new ground-floor and foundation, thus eluding the law. It is only a few years since Parliament, in passing just such an act, declared solemnly, "A new house is one which has been burned or torn down to within ten feet of the ground."

—It is not yet a hundred years since John Hookham Frere and a number of other ingenious young gentlemen of the University of Cambridge were speculating as to whether the Antipodes could ever be a self-feeding settlement. Already the land is covered with millions of kine and sheep; Australian beef is feeding England's soldiers and sailors, and in some of the Australian colonies the wild horses are becoming a public nuisance.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE MAGAZINES.

**HARPER'S MONTHLY.**—Besides the texts of the illustrated articles, and the two serials, the most striking articles in *Harper's* for May are Mr. Conway's reminiscences of Carlyle and Mr. Kegan Paul's reminiscences of George Eliot. Mr. Conway sketches the house at Chelsea, and goes into an explanation of what was Carlyle's real attitude of mind towards us during the civil war. The most interesting portion of his paper, however, is that in which he recounts Carlyle's own story of his youth, as Carlyle told it to him on the evening after he had delivered his address as Lord Rector at Edinburgh. This is the more interesting, as the conversation goes over some of the same ground that is traversed in the reminiscences, but the tone is entirely different, as much so as that of the Edinburgh address itself is different from that of the reminiscences.

Mr. Kegan Paul's paper on George Eliot is biographical and gossip, rather than critical, and deals to a considerable extent with the incidents of her early life. The portrait which is one of the illustrations is very striking.

**SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.**—Col. Waring, in a paper on "The Sanitary Condition of New York," lays it down that the natural advantages as a healthful place have been disregarded and sacrificed ever since its settlement. "Built as it should have been built, it would have been a sanitarian's paradise. Built as it has been built, it is riddled with faults of the gravest character, from the Battery to the Harlem River." About the beginning of the century, it was proposed to lay out a park on the east side, one of the features of which was to be the "collect pond" at Canal Street, but the proposition was defeated, because it was considered a waste of public money to make a pleasure-ground so remote from the centre of population. "This remote region is now probably the most densely populated area of Christendom." The chief sanitary danger of New York at the present time, Colonel Waring considers to lie in defective house-drainage rather than in defective sewerage. Although the sewerage is very unscientific and imperfect, it is about as good as that of most other great cities.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.**—Mr. House's paper on Japan in the May number sets forth the wrongs which the Empire of the Mikado has suffered from the European nations and the United States, under the lead of England, by being forbidden to frame a tariff which should be effective, either for revenue or for protection, and of the consequent distress of what is, at any rate, a poor country which has impoverished itself further in an attempt to approximate Western civilization. The brutality of Sir Henry Parkes, the English Minister, has, according to Mr. House, done much to aggravate the effects of the British policy of propagating Free Trade, and opening new markets by the sword. "To the Japanese," says Mr. House, "the idea of one nation, whose annual customs revenue is a hundred millions, prating about perfect freedom of trade to another, which collects only two millions, and has no intention of creating more than eight or ten, is the extremity of impudence or absurdity. England undoubtedly has greater needs than Japan; but Japan assuredly has some." "The income to the British treasury proceeding from duty upon a single Japanese product is greater than all the customs receipts of Japan put together."

Mr. Walter H. Page gives an interesting "Study of an Old Southern Borough," which contains sympathetic sketches of specimens, of whom not many are left, of the "leading men" of the old South. "There are no people," he says, "that think more highly of themselves than the citizens of an ancient Southern town. But their vainglory is not so much a personal as a communistic vainglory. Personally, perhaps, they think not more highly of themselves than other people; in the main, every individual will set a very modest opinion upon his own attainments and his own worth. But to them their old borough is the most highly-favored place under heaven." Mr. Page dwells upon the economic shiftlessness of Southern industrial arrangements. "They are the hardest men in the world to move to put forth an effort, even for their own improvement. 'If they would do so-and-so,' is a favorite phrase with them. 'If they would build mills and advertise, we should become a great manufacturing centre in a few years.' They must build the mills; we should become a rich people."

**INTERNATIONAL REVIEW.**—Mr. W. G. Low discusses "The Balance of the Geneva Award." After describing how we obtained the award, and upon what principles the tribunal acted in granting it, he concludes that we should pay, first, the British sailors who served under our flag during the war, and who would have been entitled to compensation had they been Americans; second, the men who paid war-premiums; and, third, the sufferers by the "excupated" cruiser; any balance remaining to be turned into the Treasury.

Mr. Henry Gannett repels the accusation of "Census Frauds in the South," by describing the method of enumeration and verifying its results by various tests, such as local returns taken for other purposes. His conclusion is that the discrepancies observed and remarked upon are due, not to the imperfection of the census of 1880, but to the imperfection of the census of 1870, which he also describes. Part of the discrepancy he attributes, also, to the fact that the old Southern States have ceased to be emigrated from, and have begun to be emigrated to.

Mr. Mitsukuri, a Japanese, contributes an account of "Recent Changes in Japan," which is, in fact, an account of the whole movement of the Empire from feudalism to what Mr. Spencer calls "Industrialism." Like all educated Japanese, the writer does not forget what has been lost in contemplating what has been and is to be gained. The virtues of the old "samurai" were distinctly what we should call medieval virtues; but they were none the less virtues. "Their submission to superiors was so absolute that, even if accused on unjust grounds, they would submit to punishment, sometimes of death, without murmur or complaint. The manner in which they tried to bring back to the right path their erring masters, was highly characteristic. They would memorialize them and then commit suicide by *hari-kari*; for their idea was that it would be

disrespectful to speak against the pleasure of their lords, and yet highly disloyal to allow them to go on in a mistaken way without trying to dissuade them. There was but one thing for a true "samurai" to do; "he must respectfully speak his mind, and then apologize for his audacity with his life." "I believe that in after years we shall look back upon that portion of our history very much as a man looks on his unconscious, happy childhood." With regard to the commercial policy of foreign nations towards Japan, Mr. Mitsukuri takes precisely the same line that is taken by Mr. House in the Atlantic.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE.—Dr. Oswald writes of the sloth of Mexico and Brazil, which is certainly well named: "A blank cartridge exploded under his nose would scarcely make him wink unless the powder should singe his eye-lids. He permits you to lift his claw, but drops it as soon as you withdraw your hand. If you pinch him, he breaks forth in a moan that seems to express a lament over the painfulness of earthly affairs in general, rather than resentment of your particular act."

## FINANCE.

NEW YORK, April 27, 1881.

AS was intimated in last week's issue might be the case, the speculation in stocks at the Stock Exchange was influenced, during the early days of the period now under review, by the remaining "short" element in the market. Having this interest as a sort of basis to work upon, a desperate effort was made for a few days to give prices an appearance of strength that would tempt the ventures of the indifferent public. The jaded appetites of speculators were stimulated by special movements in special stocks, and the set of shares known as Gould stocks was dressed in the garments of "Consolidation," apparently with the idea to attract the reluctant "outside" swains who are sometimes allured by tinsel when sober habiliments fail to entice. But after all the great labor expended on the market, there refused to come an infusion of new blood, and the closing days of the week witnessed a relapse of the speculation into the hands of room-traders and that coterie of outsiders who are satisfied with small profits on ephemeral transactions. The quotations of the last few days represented in the main only the fluctuations incident to the ordinary shifting of trading on a very dull market. The final prices close generally unchanged for the regular speculations, or only slightly higher.

Among the special features of the week may be mentioned Louisville and Nashville, which is up 7 3/4 per cent., to 99 1/4. The earnings of this road are handsomely increasing, and the recent movement was predicated upon the practical consolidation of several lines, by which the Louisville and Nashville secures in its interest, it is claimed, a valuable direct connection with the South Atlantic coast. The advance in International and Great Northern is heavy—amounting to 21 1/2 per cent.; but the dealings were small, and, as the stock is a "pocket" stock, it must be remembered that high figures can be readily marked up for it. But throughout the general list no change is shown indicative of a healthy improvement in the situation. The market closed with the appearance of a possible further temporary enhancement of speculative values, but with no promise of being, for a time, aught but a brokers' market. Whenever strength is developed in prices, it carries with it decided evidences of unnatural manipulation; but the wearied, satiated condition of the speculation is shown on the removal of active support to quotations.

The Joint Executive Committee of the railroads has been in session to-day, but great secrecy is observed regarding its deliberations. Enough was learned to demonstrate that there was decidedly animated talk regarding the unsettled condition of freight rates, both East-bound and West-bound; but as an open confession is said to be good for the soul, it may prove in the end of benefit that there should be "talking out in meeting."

The financial management of the New York Elevated Railroads has been of the most outrageous character under the consolidation of the two companies which was practically consummated by a lease to the Manhattan Railway Company. The present capitalization of the elevated roads is many millions in excess of their cost, and now, to avoid the payment of taxes, the President appeals to the Mayor, Comptroller and Corporation counsel of this city, for their aid and co-operation in securing relief from the payment of taxes, including arrearages for 1879 and 1880. According to the statement of President Gallaway, the gross receipts for the current year are estimated at \$5,200,000 and the total expenses, including taxes and interest on bonds, at \$5,396,080, leaving a deficit of nearly \$200,000. How much this statement has to do with the stock market, it is difficult to say, although it is known that some of the prominent holders of the securities of the Company, a few months ago, sold out and retired from the Board of Directors. If it is a movement to depress the price of the stock for the purpose of manipulation, it is proving successful, Manhattan closing to-day 6 1/2 per cent. lower, at 24 3/8 on a slight rally. No one doubts, however, that, if the companies were managed on an economical basis, that they would earn a handsome dividend on the actual cost of construction.

A comparison of the last two annual statements of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company, the last one of which has just been issued, shows that there

was a decrease in the gross earnings per mile for 1880, of \$539, and a decrease in the net earnings for the same period per mile of \$345. The capital stock has not been changed, except an increase of \$125,000 in the preferred stock; but the funded debt is now \$70,172,000, an increase for the year of \$28,822,500. To this must also be added the increase in the floating debt, which now amounts to \$1,942,000, against \$96,879 at the close of 1879. The increase in mileage was 1,544 miles, the Company now owning and operating 3,775 miles. The payment on the bonded debt for the current year for interest account will amount to \$4,700,000, or \$1,900,000 more than the payments made for the same account last year.

The statement of the New York banks last week, showed an increase in deposits of \$3,831,900, and in total reserve (specie and legal tenders,) \$4,974,500, while the loans were reduced sufficiently to make the statement agree reasonably well with itself, especially when it is remembered that it is only a statement of averages. It does not, however, explain the mystery connected with the movement of gold since the beginning of the year, the receipts of specie, mostly gold from foreign ports, having amounted to over \$27,277,000. The receipts of specie for the past week were over \$3,200,000, and most of the gold then afloat has since arrived. Foreign exchange has advanced so that further importations cannot be made at a profit, and, in fact, no shipments have been reported from Europe during the past two weeks. Additional confirmation is furnished, week by week, that the assumption heretofore made in these columns, that the West is less in need of extra funds at present than ever before in its history, is correct. A large amount of Eastern capital was used in developing the West, and for a time additional capital was required whenever it became necessary to move any of the crops or other articles of commerce, and hence the periodical flow of money to that section of the country, followed by its return to the great money centres, and subsequent plethora of funds in this city. The abundant harvests of the past few years have enabled Western farmers, merchants and dealers in a great measure to cancel their debts, and to supply themselves with funds sufficient to transact their business. As a necessary result, the annual April settlements had a very slight effect upon the money market here, and, where a few years ago leading commercial centres in the West were glad to obtain money at from 10 to 20 per cent. per annum, with better security, it is abundant now at from 5 to 8 per cent.

There is no longer any doubt about the absolute success of Secretary Windom's scheme to extend the 6 per cents. after July 1 at 3 1/2 per cent. It is estimated now that the holders of about 90 per cent. of all the outstanding bonds will make application for their continuance at the reduced rate, and the fact that the 6's are selling at a premium of 1 per cent. in addition to their face value and interest, is a sufficient guarantee that they will not be presented to the Secretary for redemption. The holders of these bonds, however, have only, according to the circular of the Secretary, until May 10 to signify to the Treasury Department their intentions in the matter. However, to facilitate operations abroad, and relieve foreign holders of much annoyance and delay, Mr. C. E. Coon, of the Loan Division of the Treasury Department, will be sent to London to establish an agency for their presentation for continuance, instead of shipping them back to this country. The success of the plan, so far as it relates to the 6 per cent. bonds, having been established, the next question that arises is—What will the Secretary do with the 5 per cents.? A question, it is believed, even Mr. Windom has not settled in his own mind.

The Court has finally rendered its decision in the Reading Railroad case respecting the proposed blanket mortgage of \$150,000,000, by which its former President claimed to be able to relieve the Company of its present embarrassment. The decision is adverse to their issue, and the Court also very plainly informs Mr. Gowen, before attempting to carry out any other scheme for the restoration of the Company to the stockholders, the Court must be consulted in regard to the matter. President Bond and his associate directors have taken rooms at the Company's office on South Fourth Street, and Mr. Bond has issued a notice that a resolution of the new Board has been adopted revoking any authority previously given to Mr. Gowen, either as President of the Company, or as agent or attorney to make contracts, to issue bonds, or execute mortgages or other instruments, or enter into any negotiations on behalf of the Company. The statement of the Company, which has just been issued, shows that during the first quarter of the current year, the receipts of the Railroad Company were \$5,610,159, against \$5,467,707 for the corresponding months of last year, while the expenditures this year were \$3,377,049, against \$3,107,773 for 1880, leaving net profits for the past quarter of \$2,223,110, against \$2,359,974 for the first three months of 1880, a falling off of over \$125,000. The net profits of the Coal and Iron Company were \$210,226, against a loss last year of \$204,788.

There is very little to be said about the Philadelphia market. Some little activity was infused into the Pennsylvania Railroad stock by the promulgation of the Company's report, showing an increase in the net earnings of all of the lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie, for the month of March, of \$287,978, while all lines west of Pittsburgh and Erie, for the quarter ending April 1, show a surplus of \$966,937, which is a decrease, as compared with the same period in 1880, of \$82,192. The dividend, which it is confidently believed will be 4 per cent., is to be declared during the current week, and it is expected that some action will be taken respecting the additional stock authorized at the annual meeting of the Company.

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